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FINANCIAL TIMES

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HINE connoisseurs' cognac

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL Seven Ethiopia leaders killed

Each of the men appears to have been a member of a recently formed executive committee for a Right wing faction. It seemed that their deaths stemmed from the power struggles which have taken place inside the Marxist-inclined military elite since it deposed Emperor Haile Selassie in September, 1974.

Lighten Ulster security-CBI Following Wednesday night's murder of Mr. Jeffrey Agate, Du... Stanley Craig, Ulster chair... of the Confederation of... of... In London's Oxford... of a bookshop. There... no injuries. Back Page... News Analysis, Page 7

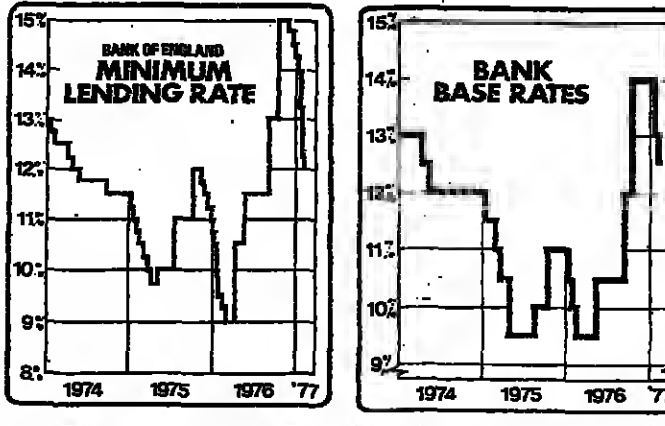
to deal... 13 NATO... to be asked... a formula for buying... AWACS... aircraft. Back Page

both seas... Marie Soares, Prime Minister... to have talks with... James Callaghan in London... February 14-15. Michael Grade is to succeed... Mr. Cyril Bennett as... of programmes at... Weekend Television. Sir Frederick Pile, com... of Anti-Aircraft Com... during the Battle of... in 1940, who died last... ember aged 83, has left £221... crew died in a fire aboard... 4,000 ton British car ferry... as at Almeria, Spain. by, setting for Tom Brown's... oldies, is to abolish fagging.

IFT PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY. Includes table with columns for item, price, and change.

Bank cuts MLR in move to re-assert control over rate

IN A move designed to re-assert its control over the level of short-term interest rates the Bank of England yesterday cut its minimum lending rate by 1/2 per cent to 12 per cent. At the same time, the cost of bank credit was reduced further as the big banks announced a general cut in their base rates for lending from 13 to 12 1/2 per cent.



at present a permanent return to an administered Bank rate instead of the market-related formula. The move brought a reaction in the gilt-edged market, where earlier in the day hopes of a stronger downward trend in interest rates had brought continued demand for stock.

Pressure to think again on £600m. BP share sale

A SMALL group of Cabinet Ministers is understood to be putting pressure on the Government to reconsider the planned sale of more than £600m-worth of British Petroleum shares.

Serck opposes £36m. AE bid

is not in the best interests of Serck's shareholders, employees or customers. Serck recently reported pre-tax profits of £7.05m, against £5m in the previous year.

Table with columns for FEATURES, ON OTHER PAGES, and ANNUAL STATEMENTS. Includes sub-table for FT SURVEY.

Slater charges all dismissed

SUMMONSSES against Mr. Jim Slater, former chairman of Slater Walker Securities, for alleged breaches of the Companies Act 1948 in connection with more than £3m. of share deals in 1973-1974 were dismissed at Guildhall Court yesterday.

Question

The new clause outlining the referendum procedures shows that the Government proposes only one question should be put to the electors.

Corsica, France

See what an Air France Holiday can do for you.

Advertisement for Air France Corsica, France holiday. Includes text about Corsica, Air France Holidays, and contact information. Includes a small table for exchange rates.

Callaghan in bid to save devolution Bill

MR. JAMES CALLAGHAN last night intervened dramatically to save the Government's devolution legislation by warning Labour MPs that it was essential to get the Scotland and Wales Bill on to the statute book this session.

Indications

If the argument succeeds—and Mr. Callaghan's personal intervention emphasises the pressures that the Government whips will now exert—then a guillotine can be expected to be tabled later this month.

BY RAY DAFTER

LOMBARD

Not learning from experience

BY GEOFFREY OWEN

IF THERE is any comfort to be drawn from the Government's selection of five sectors for special attention during the next stage of industrial strategy, it is that the list does not include machine tools. Whether this is because the Government has given up the machine tool industry as a bad job, or no longer considers it to be "strategic," or thinks its performance is good enough not to require any further special attention, is unknown. But the machine tool makers should be relieved. For they have been subjected over the past 15 years or so to more Government investigations, exhortations and assistance schemes of one sort or another than any other sector of industry. All these exercises have taken up a great deal of time, effort and money and have done little to the industry and to the economy have been, on a generous view, very meagre indeed.

"Winners"

Studies of structural change among machine tool companies... Some companies have done well, others badly—a not uncommon process which has been little affected by Government intervention. Some firms which were once regarded as "winners" have turned out to be precisely the opposite, while some which a few years ago were almost written off as hopeless cases have staged remarkable recoveries. Overall, the industry has had a respectable record in world markets; a useful trade surplus has been maintained and there are a number of companies which can reasonably claim to be world leaders in their field.

The relevance of all this to the industrial strategy is that the relations between the Government and the machine tool industry over the past 15 years could provide—if anyone bothered to study it—valuable evidence on just how much economic intervention actually works and what good it does. After all there is nothing very new about the industrial strategy; most of the ideas have been tried out before. But what has not been done is any systematic attempt to study the past 15 years' lessons from it—let alone publish the results of such

studies. Yet the files of the Department of Industry and its predecessor departments must be crammed with material which would shed light on these issues. For example, a great deal of work has been done on the question of structural change, which seems to figure prominently in the Government's present thinking about the industrial strategy. It would be nice to feel that those concerned with this part of the exercise had thoroughly studied, or had commissioned a thorough study of, the activities of the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation. The Department of Industry is known to have looked at certain of the IRC-sponsored mergers, with results that appear to have encouraged some scepticism about structural re-organisation, but these have not been published. It may be that the National Enterprise Board will be much more successful in this field than the IRC, but since it is taxpayers' money that is being spent, one would like to know how the NEB is planning to avoid the IRC's mistakes and indeed, what those mistakes were.

The machine tool industry is at the heart of mechanical engineering, on which, as the Government has rightly observed, some hopes largely depend. Like most other sectors of engineering, it is a highly international business. The largest exporting countries, such as West Germany, are also large importers; there is no way in which one industrial country can make all the various machine tool types that it needs. As the French as well as the British have found, it is a complicated industry which does not lend itself to simple Government-inspired solutions, whether these take the form of forced mergers or large-scale injections of cash. In this it is typical of engineering as a whole.

Useful channel
Some might argue that the industrial strategy exercises do no one any harm; they provide a useful channel of communication between businessmen, civil servants and trade union officials, and help to create an atmosphere in Whitehall which is more conducive to the needs of industry. But it is more than just talk: some substantial sums of money are being made available in selective assistance. The taxpayer has a right to know what has happened to the money that has been spent on similar schemes in the past; the machine tool industry is a suitable test case.

NORTH SEA OIL REVIEW

THE NORTH SEA has come to be regarded as the fount of Government good news as well as being a source of oil and gas. Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Energy Secretary, may not have relished his transfer from the Department of Industry to the Department of Energy 20 months ago (at least not in the initial stages). But he has come to recognise that he is one of the few Cabinet Ministers over-seeing a growth sector, what is more a sector that is central to British economic recovery. Its importance was exemplified during the recent loan negotiations with the International Monetary Fund team.

Mr. Wedgwood Benn needs reminding of his role as the bearer of good news, it happens on most mornings when, with his director of information, Mr. Bernard Ingham, he pores over the day's headlines. (Notes in the margin of the Financial Times are used as an aide memoire.) There have been at least three cases in point this week. The first was the renewed emphasis on the fact that in the years up to 1980 the Government's tax take from offshore oil and gas development should total £5.5bn. During the early 1980s the receipts should rise to an average of £3.5bn annually. It was important, the Energy Secretary said, that the revenue should be used to help repay Britain's debts, to revitalise industry, and to pave the way for the long-term improvement of living standards.

The second was the surprise announcement that the Chevron group was expediting the development of the northern region of its Ninian Field end which will soon be under a £40m. steel platform from Highland Fabricators' Nigg Bay yard.

Ninian
Chevron was upset that British Petroleum, a partner in the Ninian development, had revealed the outline plan for the development in Scotland earlier this week. Nevertheless, its own announcement was enough to prompt Dr. Dickson Mahon, Minister of State for Energy, to underline the good news aspect. It was a boost and bonus for the platform

building industry, he said, one which could mark the beginning of a fresh phase of offshore development. The third point concerned reports that the Mesa exploration group had confirmed the presence of more oil in its Moray Firth field. For some days it has been known in the offshore industry that the group was engaged in testing the new well, a sign that hydrocarbons were being encountered. Within a matter of days the jack-up rig Peril 67 should be moved to drill the fourth well on block 11/30. According to reports in the industry the third well encountered a pay zone, some 400 feet lower than the first discovery well and 200 feet lower than the second.

Mesa find
The field, as yet on-named, appears to be regarded in the U.K. oil industry as one of the most exciting prospects in the North Sea. Oil analysts at World Mackenzie have estimated that recoverable reserves could lie in the 350m-450m. barrels range, although Mesa regards these figures as speculative at this stage. Nevertheless, the shallowness of the water and the proximity to land (about 12 miles) still make the Mesa find an almost certain commercial prospect.

One of the Brae Field, a much more perplexing prospect, the Pan Ocean group is engaged in another lengthy testing operation (reminiscent of the test on the discovery well). As reported in this column a fortnight ago the group has encountered more oil with its sixth well on block 16/7, but after a month it is still some way from fully appraising the pay zone. Not surprisingly the bad weather has had some (reportedly only slight) effect on the test.

Anyone who has visited Occidental's Piper and Claymore fields in the midst of a sale, will sympathise with thousands of men working on the offshore installations. When 40 foot waves buffet the large Piper platform, causing the whole structure to shudder, one readily believes Mr. Olen Robertson, a drilling supervisor, when he says: "There are two things the

men are afraid of: drilling engineers and the weather." A senior executive on one of the Forties Field platforms, having felt for the first time the sensation of strong winds and heavy seas hammering the structure, is reported to have radioed a colleague on another platform: "I think we are moving." — "Which way, towards us or away from us?" came the reply.

The main news announcement expected this week—the allocation of fifth round exploration licences—has again been postponed. It is not even certain that the allocation which could have come at the end of last year will be made next week.

This means that there is a lessening chance of the offshore industry doing much fifth round exploration drilling this year. One of the major groups which is almost certain to be allocated one of the few plum blocks said that it would be able to do little more than seismic work this year; its exploration and development programme for the next 12 months had already been formulated. It would be tempting to read too much into this latest delay, but it does seem to have been caused only by red tape. The Department of Energy wanted the allocations to be announced as soon as possible in order to allow the successful companies to work out the detailed operating agreements with their state partners: the British National Oil Corporation and the British Gas Corporation or, in some cases, both. The standard operating agreement, which will form the basis of these detailed negotiations, has been almost finalised by BNOG and the U.K. Offshore Operators Association. Consequently, earlier this week the Department decided to announce the new licences yesterday only to find that it had not allowed sufficient time to brief other departments—like the Foreign Office.

The participation negotiations with existing offshore operators have not caused the delay. Evers Amoco, the last of the majors yet to accept state participation, has said enough in discussions with Government to ensure that it will at least be considered for

Good news from a stormy sea for Britain and its Government

The detailed participation agreement which Shell and Esso—like Mobil—have conceded the important principle that they will use up to 100 per cent of their North Sea oil (not merely the 51 per cent covered by participation) to support their British refining and marketing operations and to "optimise" the use of British oil in Britain. In other words, regular meetings between the oil companies and Government (through BNOG) should ensure that the largest possible amount of North Sea crude will be used in Britain. Any hopes that Esso and Mobil might have had about shipping crude to the oil-thirsty U.S. have been severely dented.

American

That raises another important point, pertinent to the fifth round. As in the past, with a possible deterioration of the U.S. energy situation, it will become increasingly apparent that American companies will have restricted scope to ship large quantities of North Sea crude across the Atlantic. There is a feeling spreading in the oil industry that the U.S. authorities will have to offer more exploration concessions, on more attractive terms, than in the past in order to boost domestic production. On this assumption, U.S. interest in the North Sea could decline to wane in a few years time. It is an hypothesis that is being considered seriously within the BNOG, for the State underlining believes the day will come when it might be spearheading new exploration activity on the U.K. Continental shelf.

Thistle

BP is anxious to reinvest the ample profits that are arising from the Forties Field. The £550m. investment is expected to be repaid by the end of next year. Illustrating why the group has not only been seeking new acreage but also a stake in proven reserves (like the Buchan Field) which might be developed relatively quickly. BP is not the only big spender. The Shell-Esso exploration group, which is already developing the Auk, Brent, Cormorant, and Dunlin fields, last year announced plans to spend £3.5bn. on oil exploration and production over the next five or six years. (After a major tussle the group finally agreed to a State presence in all its operations on terms which, on the face of it, represented a victory for Government oil industry over Government.

TV Radio

Indicates programme in black and white.
BBC 1
9.30 a.m. For Schools, Colleges, 10.45 You and Me, 11.05 For Schools, Colleges, 12.45 p.m. News, 1.00 Pebble Mill, 1.45 Trumpton, 2.02 For Schools, Colleges, 2.30 Ar Glawr, 3.53 Regional News (except London), 3.55 Play School, 4.30 Roobarb, 4.35 Jackanory, 4.40 Lippy Lion and his Friends, 4.55 Crackerjack, 5.35 News Roundabout, 5.40 News, 5.55 Nationwide (London only).

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 3,297

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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ACROSS
1 Fully equipped to contend for a prize—about a pound (8)
2 Responds to stimulus and gives a second performance (6)
3 One who flatters attendant at palace (8)
4 Part of rope having to stand internal resistance (6)
5 Canoe modified for the deep (5)
6 Carbon is correct for the originator's protection (9)
7 Wise man in for a clean-up (6)
8 genuina note? (7)
9 Vesella in river stretch (7)
10 Transfer a southern symbol (6)
11 Emotion sent people into it (8)
12 Cultivated land with slope in front of hospital (8)
13 Wrangled while shivering right inside (6)
14 and stripped, retaining only underwear, and died outside (8)
15 Total possessions of eastern country (6)
16 Calculated to give me a certain degree (8)
DOWN
1 Two companies take on milk supplier (6)
2 Common type of cheese—nearly 24 years old? (5-4)
3 Language the French can produce (8)

7.30 Sale of the Century. 3.00 Emergency, 9.00 Another Bouquet, 10.00 News, 10.30 Police Five, 10.40 Rich Man, Poor Man, 12.35 a.m. Close: Judith Davis reads from the book "The Country House—A Gift for God". All ITV Regions as London except at the following times:—

ANGLIA
1.25 a.m. Anglia News, 12.25 Friday 7.00 Report on the L200 Project, 7.30 Survival—Crest Mountain Winter, 8.00 About Anglia, 8.30 Miss Anglia, 8.57 The Fringe, 9.10 Mystery Movie—Mettling and Day, 12.35 a.m. Your Music At Night.

ATV MIDLANDS
1.20 a.m. ATV Midlands, 12.25 Morning News, 1.00 News, 1.30 Survival—Crest Mountain Winter, 8.00 About Anglia, 8.30 Miss Anglia, 8.57 The Fringe, 9.10 Mystery Movie—Mettling and Day, 12.35 a.m. Your Music At Night.

BORDER
11.20 a.m. Border News, 2.25 Friday 7.00 Report on the L200 Project, 7.30 Survival—Crest Mountain Winter, 8.00 About Anglia, 8.30 Miss Anglia, 8.57 The Fringe, 9.10 Mystery Movie—Mettling and Day, 12.35 a.m. Your Music At Night.

CHANNEL
11.20 a.m. Channel News, 2.25 Friday 7.00 Report on the L200 Project, 7.30 Survival—Crest Mountain Winter, 8.00 About Anglia, 8.30 Miss Anglia, 8.57 The Fringe, 9.10 Mystery Movie—Mettling and Day, 12.35 a.m. Your Music At Night.

GRAMPIAN
1.20 a.m. Gramscian News, 12.25 Friday 7.00 Report on the L200 Project, 7.30 Survival—Crest Mountain Winter, 8.00 About Anglia, 8.30 Miss Anglia, 8.57 The Fringe, 9.10 Mystery Movie—Mettling and Day, 12.35 a.m. Your Music At Night.

LONDON
9.30 a.m. Schools Programmes, 12.00 Kathy's Quiz, 12.10 p.m. Mister Trumble, 12.30 Hello, Good Afternoon, Welcome, 1.00 News, 1.30 The Saturday Show, 2.00 The Saturday Show, 2.30 The Saturday Show, 3.00 The Saturday Show, 3.30 The Saturday Show, 4.00 The Saturday Show, 4.30 The Saturday Show, 5.00 The Saturday Show, 5.30 The Saturday Show, 6.00 The Saturday Show, 6.30 The Saturday Show, 7.00 The Saturday Show, 7.30 The Saturday Show, 8.00 The Saturday Show, 8.30 The Saturday Show, 9.00 The Saturday Show, 9.30 The Saturday Show, 10.00 The Saturday Show, 10.30 The Saturday Show, 11.00 The Saturday Show, 11.30 The Saturday Show, 12.00 The Saturday Show, 12.30 The Saturday Show, 1.00 The Saturday Show, 1.30 The Saturday Show, 2.00 The Saturday Show, 2.30 The Saturday Show, 3.00 The Saturday Show, 3.30 The Saturday Show, 4.00 The Saturday Show, 4.30 The Saturday Show, 5.00 The Saturday Show, 5.30 The Saturday Show, 6.00 The Saturday Show, 6.30 The Saturday Show, 7.00 The Saturday Show, 7.30 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The Unofficial Russians

by WILLIAM PACKER

The exhibition of unofficial Russian contemporary painting and sculpture, which occupies the lower galleries at the ICA until February 27, puts us all on the spot; for to visit it exposes us to a world of inescapable clarity, irretrievably divided nature of our responses to the work we see: sincere interest and sympathy on the one hand, necessary criticism on the other. We come to it full of encouragement and anxious to help; we leave depressed, critical and confused.

There can be no doubting the sincerity and courage of the artists who are represented here. Artists in the west have their problems too, of course, what with a generally indifferent public whipped from time to time into more aggressive political or mischievously hostile pressure. But they do not find themselves forced to work secretly, in cupboards, even cut off from their fellow artists and with no knowledge of what goes on abroad, and ever aware of their rulers' bleak disapproval and malignant suspicion. Dye stained sculpture is one thing, nine years in a labour camp quite another. That anything gets done at all under such conditions is wonderful, for all our little confidence in the eternal resilience of the human spirit.

And these men and women have not given in, for which we can only praise them unreservedly. But unfortunately that praise, given so freely, cannot be extended to their work, for the fact that in general it is poor stuff. We want to admire it, and would do so generously if only we could, for we know what it means in terms of hardship and suffering; but it is impossible to do so objectively. Bad art is bad art, and only special pleading can make it otherwise.

There is plenty of that. The surly of expulsions and exiles in recent years, notably of Alexander Glezler, the collector and champion of the embattled art, from whose collection this show is largely taken, and the successive suppression of the authorities, wading in with bulldozers and water-cannon, of apparently legal exhibitions, make excellent ammunition for white propaganda: we are on the side of the angels. But propaganda is the death of art, and having your heart in the right place is never enough to make you an artist.

The particular circumstances do help to explain, of course, why this Russian work should be as it is. Cut off from the Modern Movement at a crucial moment and unable to follow its natural development, their own revolutionary avant-garde, still a vital influence in the west, discredited and isolated from each other, Soviet artists are dreadfully disadvantaged: and it is small wonder that their work should turn out to be so self-centred, sentimental, historicist, and un-

disciplined. With no free critical structure against which to measure themselves, but only the sterile official political academy, it could hardly be otherwise. The thought that their political masters should consider their work, which is neither radical nor experimental, nor even particularly good, when seen in the context of world activity, so dangerous, is infinitely depressing. A grim joke; but at least the joke is against the bureaucratic tyranny, that perpetrates such crimes, and not the artists themselves. And the paintings are not wholly bad, even if they are not good. There are some intriguing echoes of the Suprematists and the Con-

structivists in some of the abstract drawings for large constructions by Lev Nussimberg. The best work of the artists is by Oscar Rubin, whose work is given a prominent showing: somewhat melodramatic and obvious, and rather heavily mannered, but none the less vigorous and confident.

This is a serious, even important exhibition, all the more so, perhaps, because of the general inadequacy of the work, and what that tells us about the condition of the artist in unholy Russia. Perhaps criticism will be taken amiss, but it is not meant unkindly. For our part we must remember that Russia is not just another country, but another world and we, who have never lived and worked there, cannot know what it is like. The show has been organised jointly by the ICA and The Writers' and Scholars' Educational Trust (who have published through Seeker and Warburg an excellent catalogue-cum-book for the occasion). It is also the last show at the ICA with which Sir Roland Penrose will be associated. He founded the Institute just after the War, and has watched over it ever since, unhappily with ever increasing misgivings. The move to the Mall some ten years ago brought with it problems that have never really been resolved: problems of status and function, and changed expectations and opportunities. Inevitably its role has changed, gradually assuming the character of an Arts Centre, that London may not need, and discarding that of an Institute serving the creative and intellectual needs of London's community of artists.

Sir Roland resigned his Presidency last autumn, in an atmosphere highly charged with acrimony and controversy. The rights and wrongs of the business must wait for the time being; but the ICA remains a remarkable creation and a fine achievement. Sir Roland's departure, after 30 years work for the well-being of the Arts in this country, should not pass unremarked.

There is plenty of that. The surly of expulsions and exiles in recent years, notably of Alexander Glezler, the collector and champion of the embattled art, from whose collection this show is largely taken, and the successive suppression of the authorities, wading in with bulldozers and water-cannon, of apparently legal exhibitions, make excellent ammunition for white propaganda: we are on the side of the angels. But propaganda is the death of art, and having your heart in the right place is never enough to make you an artist.

historical interest, hard to kindle as a living operatic experience. After Tuesday's performance, one recognised Anber's achievement in fixing the classic grand opera form, later to be refined by Meyerbeer: five acts of fiction patterned into baroque history (Scribe and Delavigne, the librettists, placed the Neapolitan uprising of 1647 and the Vesuvius eruption of 1881 in typically operatic effectiveness: splashes of local colour in the scenery, ballets, and orchestration; big finale confrontations of soloists and choruses; a closing coup de théâtre, here a compound of suicide and volcanic fury. A particular novelty was the invention of the heroine Fenella, who played entirely in mime, her sentiments relayed by the orchestra. Anber's use of march rhythms, a rousing finger-print on the score, was to influence all who came after him. But it was cumulatively that ponderous evening—stirring and pleasing in patches, heavy as a whole. The successful operatic composer in Anber contrived a few genuinely pretty sequences for Elvira, the soprano, an engaging Rossinian barcarolle for the tenor, some lyrical passages for the second tenor, the once-celebrated second-act duet "Mieux vaut mourir," and some Spanish or Neapolitan touches of vivacity in

the ballet music. Yet his technical short-windedness cripples the larger dramatic structures. The failure to produce wide-ranging, dramatically clinching melody in the ensembles is a less onerous feature of the score than its harmonic poverty—La Muette de Portici must be one of the most pitiless, tone- and-dominant operas in existence. Not for the first time one was reminded of what it took Berlioz, Wagner and Verdi to transform the colourful, essentially static largeness of the Parisian operatic form, each in his own way, each for his own vastly different ends. In most departments, but especially in the orchestra, the improvement in standards over last year's *La Vestale* at Nottingham is notable—significant, therefore, that Spontini's opera should have left so much more powerful an impression. Tom Hawkes fails to control a rash of "exotic" contributions in the crowd scenes (the Neapolitan tarantella dancer with an apple in her mouth and floss in her hair is a collector's item); otherwise his production is swift, functional, eminently well adapted to the enthusiasm and reduced means of student grand opera. He is better assisted by the intelligently simple settings suggest both the church of the first act and the seashore of the second—than the amb-

Ludwig: Requiem for a Virgin King (AA) Paris-Pullman and Phoenix Shadowman Essential Cinema Next Stop Greenwich Village (X) Rialto The Pink Telephone (X) Gala Royal New French Films National Film Theatre Thames Film Festival Thames Polytechnic

In the past, the cinema has had less to say about mad King Ludwig and the fall of the house of Wittelsbach than such a ripely dramatic subject would seem to have occasioned. Now, better late than never, films on the subject are coming at us with a rush. Yesterday, The Confessions of Winifred Wagner today, Ludwig: Requiem for a Virgin King (by the same director, Hans-Jürgen Syberberg): tomorrow, Visconti's *Ludwig II*. Visconti's sumptuous bio-pic, swathed in period splendour and boasting a palely brilliant performance in the title role by Helmut Berger, was previewed at the London Film Festival and should surface commercially later this year. Syberberg's more thought-provoking and using back-projected settings where Visconti used the real castles, and stylised, stately action where Visconti deployed a constant swirl of movement, is with us this week.

The German director's film was made five years ago—as part of a larger conception: the first film in a series of four designed by Syberberg to trace the rise of German militarism and philistinism over the hundred years between the ascension of Ludwig II and the death of Adolf Hitler (who is the subject of Syberberg's forthcoming film); and to show that rise as being inextricably linked to the death of Wagner's music. For the latter there can be no more poignant symbol than the mad monarch of Bavaria, who came to the throne in 1864, spent his years of power in an ever more spendthrift and eccentric round of building and homosexual dalliance, and died mysteriously in

the acting area, the curtains move to reveal a stack of bicycles belonging to Spokesman, still playing here in the evenings before transferring soon to the Vaudeville.

Harry is deeply depressed about the state of the nation (who isn't?) and is avoiding a fantasy of nemesis by dressing up in anything that comes to hand. Thus, in the space of two minutes, he changes from the latest guest as both the doorman and a hunch-backed gardener bearing flowers. The new arrival is Gunnar Snorrason, a Finn dealing in hanxite who, in turn, is suspected by Harry of being a tax snoop. Aubrey Woods brings his customary panache and precision to registering the Finn's surprised reactions, but he is never once allowed to appear convincingly troubled. And that is entirely the fault of the weak script. In fact, nothing about the play comes or surprises the latest inspired fashion, and when the whole business is mercifully wound up by Margaret Rawlings, the doty mother, discovering a lost fortune in her box of memorabilia, there is nothing for Paris: an elderly crook running home to seek fame and fortune as an actor in Greenwich Village. Paul Mazursky, of Bob & Carol and Ted & Alice renown, wrote and directed the film, and clearly had his work cut out trying to give the self-confessed autobiographer some emotional coherence. The mood oscillates alarmingly between kooky comedy—Larry holding an empty subway platform spellbound; with his impressions of Marlon Brando and

Cinema

Mad King Ludwig

by NIGEL ANDREWS



Harry Beer as Ludwig II in 'Ludwig: Requiem for a Virgin King'

Lake Starnberg — by accident, suicide or murder? — on June 13, 1886. Throughout his reign he kept disdainfully aloof from affairs of State — the virginity ascribed to him in the title is political rather than sexual — and was finally removed from power by his uncle, on the grounds of insanity, and replaced with his no less demented brother, Otto.

It needs a talent the reverse of Procrustean to squeeze such a life into the confines of a feature film: albeit one lasting 2½ hours. Syberberg has rightly turned his back on any attempt at realism. He has given us instead a series of tableaux vivants in which Ludwig and his fellow characters speak and move with elaborate formalism against a series of sumptuously coloured back-projections (many of them based on original stage designs for Wagner's operas). Conversations and meetings taken from history jostle with scenes of kitschily anachronistic fantasy: Ludwig dreaming of encounters with sundry 20th century folk heroes (the Looz Ranger, the Shadow, Wagner "reminiscent" about Brecht, Hitler dancing a tango to Wagner's music).

Not, as you can see, the most digestible of films. The miscellaneous allusions to Western culture, highbrow and lowbrow, fly thick and fast; and a need for footnotes begins edgily to be felt some 40 minutes into the film. Woe, or tedium, betide the filmgoer who does not have at least a nodding acquaintance with such supporting characters of 19th century history as Lola Mootes, Prince Luitpold, Karl May and Josef Kainz. And further to confound hopes for stylistic homogeneity in the film, Syberberg scatters through it half a dozen interviews in which Ludwig's friends and associates talk straight to the camera as if imparting their views to a modern TV reporter.

Where the film scores triumphantly is in peering Ludwig in the middle of a kind of giant magnetic field where he is touched and galvanised by the myriad converging currents of European culture and history. The film does not praise or damn its hero; it merely — but fully — presents. When adverse moral

judgment is passed on Ludwig and a surreal, icy poetry — and by one set of characters — there is no film-maker in the usually the self-interested nobility it is deliberately counterpointed by another. Into a peasant's mouth, for example, is put a speech defending Ludwig's extravagance as the living-out of a fairy-tale life on his people's behalf.

One viewing is hardly enough to assimilate the complexities of the film. Syberberg's decoratively status-quo style robs the audience of the prop of emotional involvement, and forces it to ask its own questions and reach its own conclusions about the characters. Was Ludwig's aloofness from politics a sign of spiritual independence or intellectual inadequacy? Was his reign the last true flowering of German romanticism? Or was Ludwig merely, as one character in the film dubs him, the "king of Kitsch" — ancestor to that bastard line in the genealogy of romanticism that has produced, in our own century, the rainbow-bued gimmickry of Art Deco and Disneyland, Carnaby Street and the comic strip?

New York Jewish humour rides again in *Next Stop Greenwich Village*: not without a heavy counterweight of New York Jewish sentimentality, treasure: a girl in a Catwoman outfit scaling the rooftops of Paris; an elderly crook running home to seek fame and fortune as an actor in Greenwich Village. Paul Mazursky, of Bob & Carol and Ted & Alice renown, wrote and directed the film, and clearly had his work cut out trying to give the self-confessed autobiographer some emotional coherence. The mood oscillates alarmingly between kooky comedy — Larry holding an empty subway platform spellbound; with his impressions of Marlon Brando and

Edward G. Robinson — and gauche stabs at Bobemian tragedy: the suicide of a neighbour (Lois Smith), the infidelity of a girl friend (Ellen Greene). The atmosphere of place and time (circa 1953) are admirably caught, but the audience is never quite sure whether it is supposed to be laughing at, or crying with, the characters: except when a majestically funny Shelby Winters erupts onto the scene as the hero's smothering all-Jewish Mame ("She invented the Oedipus Complex" — sigla ber ruelof son), interrupting every private or compromising moment at his flat by a sudden appearance at the door with the immortal words "we were just in the neighbourhood."

A least Mazursky's film, for all its ups and downs, manifestly deserves its West End exposure. The *Pink Telephone* must rank high on the list of foreign films with no conceivable claim to merit: a London showing, Mireille Darc and Pierre Mondy star in this soi-disant "comedy" about a French provincial factory owner who spends the night with a call girl in Paris, by courtesy of the big business corporation about to take over his firm, and falls in love with her. The film spends so much time and energy winding itself up for its comic pay-offs that it has none left for the pay-offs themselves. Lamentable dubbing and murky, would-be cinematic photography compound the ineffectual tedium that results.

For Francophiles there is consolation at the National Film Theatre: a week of new French films, some of which — Jeanne Moreau's *Lumière*, Maurice Dugowson's *F For Forbanks* — have already garnered handsome reputations at recent film festivals. The star attraction, however, is Chabrol's new work, *Shades of Refugis* (showing next Monday and Tuesday), Sylvia Kristel, heroine of *Emmanuelle*, stars in this macabre fantasia about a girl who seeks refuge in a sinister chateau after a car accident. *Shades of Refugis* begins in close around the lonely girl; but the film conjures up a climax far more unerving than anything that happened to her Victorian namesake.

Those of my readers who still have a free evening left next week should be them to Woolwich, where the Thames Polytechnic is mounting its annual film fortnight. This year's selection errs on the side of modishness — with a heavy contingent of American exploitation features — but there are still some notable "firsts": Frankel's *The Jeweled Coach*, with Lee Marvin and Robert Ryan, *Bound For Glory*, Hal Ashby's film about Woody Guthrie, and Henry Jaglom's *Trucks* already seen and praised at Cannes and Edinburgh.



Oscar Rubin: London (oil on canvas)

festival Hall/Radio 3
BBC Symphony Orchestra
intimations of mortality were avoidable at the Festival Hall Wednesday, in the BBC concert conducted by Andrew Davis. Its juxtaposition of contrasting lines to mourning, the playing was wise and sensitive: naked grief, personal and concentrated, of Berg's sublime choral concerto was followed by the interval by the beating isolation, generalised and excessive of the Brahms German Requiem. Berg's Requiem for Manon was made on this occasion a searing impact than it can be. It was not because the line, Miriam Fried, lacked the strength of character to command in its terms of the spirit, or, in multi-faceted tone for the ments of tender nostalgia. But seemed that she and Mr. Devis had not yet thoroughly worked out a joint interpretation. In the opening pages the various instrumental threads were tentatively gathered, and though the conductor's feeling for clear textures served the climaxes well, the general impression was of a performance careful rather than fully passionate. Yet the final page, Miss Fried climbing above the orchestra with pale, transparent tone, was as magical as ever. Could it really be that the presence of this beautiful work on the programme still empties the hall? It seems so. In this context, and even though the lower voices of the string choir lacked depth and fullness, the opening bars of the Brahms sounded extraordinarily ripe for the contrast. It was not to be a ripe interpretation, bow-

King's Head

Mixed Economy

by MICHAEL COVENEY

It is good, if a little surprising, to find Margaret Rawlings and Aubrey Woods on the same lunchtime bill. But one can only assume that they appear in this hour-long play out of intense loyalty to their author, Jenny Laird. The vehicle, a flaccid piece of whimsy, is set in a Baywater rooming house where Alyson (Karin Fernald) takes in foreigners, dodges the taxman and fights a running battle with her ex-husband, Harry (David Godderson).

Harry is deeply depressed about the state of the nation (who isn't?) and is avoiding a fantasy of nemesis by dressing up in anything that comes to hand. Thus, in the space of two minutes, he changes from the latest guest as both the doorman and a hunch-backed gardener bearing flowers. The new arrival is Gunnar Snorrason, a Finn dealing in hanxite who, in turn, is suspected by Harry of being a tax snoop. Aubrey Woods brings his customary panache and precision to registering the Finn's surprised reactions, but he is never once allowed to appear convincingly troubled. And that is entirely the fault of the weak script. In fact, nothing about the play comes or surprises the latest inspired fashion, and when the whole business is mercifully wound up by Margaret Rawlings, the doty mother, discovering a lost fortune in her box of memorabilia, there is nothing for Paris: an elderly crook running home to seek fame and fortune as an actor in Greenwich Village. Paul Mazursky, of Bob & Carol and Ted & Alice renown, wrote and directed the film, and clearly had his work cut out trying to give the self-confessed autobiographer some emotional coherence. The mood oscillates alarmingly between kooky comedy — Larry holding an empty subway platform spellbound; with his impressions of Marlon Brando and

Masaniello

by MAX LOPPERT

This year's grand opera at Nottingham is Anber's *La Muette de Portici* of 1828, given a new English translation by Elizabeth Forbes, as *Masaniello* outside France, the name of the hero provides the more familiar title. Despite occasional miscasts, *La Muette* is to-day remembered mostly for the fact that it is the Belgian revival of 1830 shed off a revolt fanning the country's independence struggles. It is a product of the Paris 19th century, that most famous and liberally successful operatic birthplace of the 19th century. It was a work highly esteemed for itself — Wagner, no deemed it the purest achievement of French dramatic music — a work such as no other can bring forth more than it. So the University Opera again deserves the student thanks, together with the suggestion that, with *Masaniello* and the *Le Juive*, the period can now be covered, and that the station to proceed to the stable Meyerbeer should be the swiftest of greatest luxury splendour, might with a few notable exceptions. Parisian grand opera seems a phenomenon of mainly

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BY GUY DE JONQUIERES, COMMON MARKET CORRESPONDENT

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BRUSSELS, Feb. 3.

Sharp rise in West German jobless

By Adrian Dicks

THE NUMBER of unemployed increased sharply in West Germany during January...

Carter's envoy for Cyprus in bid to break deadlock

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

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Schmidt in Paris talks

BY ROBERT MAUTHNER

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PREPARATIONS for the proposed Western economic summit intensified here to-day with a wide-ranging discussion of world economic problems...

enough to enable the two countries to adopt a common position to their talks with the U.S.

EEC will not alter Arab-Israeli policy

BY ANTHONY McDERMOTT

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By Paul Betts

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David Buchan reports on Zaire's rapprochement with Belgium. Mobutu revives old ties. Zaire is to get a B.Fr.100m. loan for rail spare parts...

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AMERICAN NEWS

Burns suggests \$31bn. stimulus unnecessary

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT WASHINGTON, Feb. 3

DR. ARTHUR BURNS, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, said today that President Carter's \$31bn. economic package is an "inefficient way of stimulating economy, and that fresh stimulus may not be needed because the economy is improving on its own."

Carter finds a relaxed style to conquer Washington

BY DAVID BELL, WASHINGTON, FEB. 3

MR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, President Carter's National Security Adviser, was half an hour late last week for an important speaking engagement. Mr. Carter has cut off chauffeur-driven cars for the White House staff, so Mr. Brzezinski had to drive himself, and got stuck in a traffic jam.

House right next to Mr. Jordan. It is a long time since a Vice-President had an office so close to the President, and he gets on well with the Carter staff. The bitter clashes that so disfigured the later stages of the relationship between President Johnson and his Vice-President, Mr. Humphrey, will probably therefore be absent.

House and Capitol Hill, the legislature's mood is assertive. Many of its members have forgotten what it is to serve under a President of the same party, and they know that they did not owe their election to Mr. Carter.

SEC charges Pertamina over restaurant venture

BY STEWART FLEMING NEW YORK, Feb. 3

THE U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has charged the Indonesian State oil company, Pertamina, and its former head Gen. Ibnu Sutowo in connection with the eliciting of investment from U.S. and foreign companies in a New York restaurant venture.

SENATOR CALLS FOR NEW POLICY ON SOUTH AFRICA U.S. pressure on Vorster urged

BY JUREK MARTIN, U.S. EDITOR WASHINGTON, Feb. 3

SENATOR Dick Clark, the Democrat from Iowa who is the pre-eminent African specialist in Congress, has proposed that the U.S. should start exerting diplomatic leverage on South Africa, both to soften its Apartheid policies and as a means of reaching peaceful solutions in Rhodesia and Namibia.

Falklands cautious on U.K. plan

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT PORT STANLEY, FEB. 3

THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS have given a cautious welcome to the announcement yesterday by Mr. Anthony Crosland, the British Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, on the future of the territory.

NYC fails to meet \$1bn. debt deadline

BY JAY PALMER NEW YORK, Feb. 3

NEW YORK CITY has failed in its 11-week struggle to find \$1bn. in time to meet to-day's court-ordered deadline for the repayment of short-term city debt held by small investors.



Bringing a gentle warmth to half the world and more. Gracious hostess in her sarong kebaya. She has a way with people. A natural smile. A gentle warmth. You'll meet her five miles high.



for 0... immunis... reothi... Belgium... ies... NOMES...

OVERSEAS NEWS

Sadat announces tough law on disorder and tax fraud

BY MICHAEL TINGAY

CAIRO, Feb. 3.

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT Anwar Sadat today announced a series of repressive measures which he said were to safeguard the Egyptian constitution and the national unity of the country. In a two-hour television speech on the price riots of January 18 and 19, Mr. Sadat told the nation that a plebiscite would be held after one week to confirm a presidential decree which will mean hard labour for life for a number of offences. Among the offences were: Forming a group, paramilitary or otherwise, to destroy public or private property; failing to submit accurate accounts of the earnings of a man, his wife and minor children; tax evasion; inciting the people to impeding the Government or acquisition of its activities; taking part in a premeditated strike; participating in a sit-in which could lead, or leads, to a disturbance of the peace.

In the same decree, the president exempted small landowners or those with less than three feddans (acres) of land from tax on the first £300 of income. The law also decrees that every Egyptian must produce a statement of his wealth and that of his dependants, within three months. The decree will be enforced immediately it has been published in the official gazette, following the plebiscite. President Sadat said that the riots, in which about 80 people were killed and 500 injured, were a "horifying criminal plot." He described the events as "very dangerous," adding that he would not be intimidated. In a rare show of anger, he exploded "what is this outburst of theft, of burning private cars? Why? Are there not private cars in Moscow?" Mr. Sadat told the nation that he did not want to discuss details of the events behind the riots, which were still being investigated by the public prosecutor. However, he referred to a number of points, thus indicating the post-riot thinking of the regime. Attributing the USSR, Egyptian communists and the left-wing political party which was authorised last November, Mr. Sadat said that the freedom of the state and of every Egyptian had been threatened by the riots. He said, "I will not be merciful or tolerant. They have exploited the freedom we have given."

Gandhi fights back against defectors

By K. K. Sharma

NEW DELHI, Feb. 3.

MRS. INDIRA GANDHI today fought back strongly to maintain the unity of her ruling Congress Party, threatened by the resignation yesterday of Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Agriculture, and other senior Congress leaders. Apart from attacking Mr. Ram severely for deserting the Congress, giving as grounds decisions that he himself was party to, Mrs. Gandhi's strategy seemed to be to encourage the hopes of the "older generation" in the Congress of being nominated as candidates for the coming general election. This was apparent from the first 35 candidates announced, only two of whom are known supporters of her son, Sanjay, whose extra-constitutional position and attempt to secure a substantial number of seats for his Youth Congress is the main reason for the defections. For the moment, her tactics seem to be working. Mr. Ram's well-attended press conference today proved to be an anti-climax. Far from further defectors from the Cabinet, Mr. Ram produced just two minor former Congress functionaries. Through Mr. Ram claimed that thousands of people had welcomed his decision to quit both the Government and the party, and hinted at the prospect of new gains for his "Congress for Democracy" party, it looked today as though only those denied Congress sponsorship for the election would join. Mrs. Gandhi's camp are, however, behaving as though they are dealing with a major crisis. The main indication of this was the rallying of several thousands of workers and peasants at her residence, which was obviously intended to demonstrate that she retains popular appeal.

WORLD TRADE NEWS

Conciliation hope in row over Japan shipbuilding

BY JOHN WYLES, SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT

FIRM indications that Japan is prepared to take a more conciliatory line in the row with Western Europe over subsidies of world shipbuilding orders emerged in London yesterday. During talks with Department of Industry officials, senior Japanese Government representatives are believed to have stressed their worries about EEC threats to take action to discourage European shipbuilders from placing new orders in Japan. They apparently emphasised their understanding of Western Europe's fear that its shipbuilding industries could be virtually destroyed by Japanese competition and hinted that Japan was prepared to make a fresh effort to reach an understanding. Japan's revised position will be explained in full by the same officials at a key meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris next Tuesday and Wednesday. Yesterday's talks were sought by the Japanese delegates as a preliminary sounding exercise in advance of the OECD meeting. The delegation will be holding similar discussions with the German and French Governments tomorrow and the EEC Commission on Saturday. Despite the more conciliatory approach which Japan is understood to have adopted yesterday, there are still formidable obstacles in the way of an agreement within the OECD. In particular, it may prove impossible to reach an understanding on the EEC's proposals for sharing all orders placed in Japan and Western Europe on a 50-50 basis. Japan took around 80 per cent of these orders last year, but it is arguing that its plans to reduce shipbuilding output in Japan to around 6.5m. gross tons in 1980 from 17m. gross tons in 1975 will inevitably reduce its share of the world market. This gradualist approach will almost certainly be seen in Europe as sufficient justification for introducing selective aid to shipyards aimed at attracting sufficient volume of orders to avert the 60 per cent. reduction in shipbuilding which is currently threatened. Within the EEC, the Dutch have led the way in announcing a controversial scheme based on aid to shipbuilders. In the U.K., the approach being considered at the Department of Industry would involve channelling aid directly to shipyards since incentives to shipbuilders are believed to be too costly and indiscriminate. Japan took around 80 per cent of these orders last year, but it is arguing that its plans to reduce shipbuilding output in Japan to around 6.5m. gross tons in 1980 from 17m. gross tons in 1975 will inevitably reduce its share of the world market. This gradualist approach will almost certainly be seen in Europe as sufficient justification for introducing selective aid to shipyards aimed at attracting sufficient volume of orders to avert the 60 per cent. reduction in shipbuilding which is currently threatened. Within the EEC, the Dutch have led the way in announcing a controversial scheme based on aid to shipbuilders. In the U.K., the approach being considered at the Department of Industry would involve channelling aid directly to shipyards since incentives to shipbuilders are believed to be too costly and indiscriminate.

Britain in £140m. Saudi contract

BY RICHARD JOHNS

THE Pritchard Services Group in partnership with the Chicago based Waste Management Inc. has won a contract worth £140m. for rubbish disposal and collection in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, over a five-year period. The deal was finally concluded on January 31 after more than 15 months of negotiation and the face of competition with subsidiary of the French State controlled Renault group. The U.S. company has a 60 per cent stake in the partnership undertaking the public cleanup programme together with Sa. Pritchard, a 50-50 joint venture between the British company, Prince Abdul-Rahman Abdullah, a nephew of the late King Abdul-Aziz ibn Saud. It is believed to be the big public service contract awarded by the Kingdom. Capex costs involved in the deal have been estimated at £22m. in construction costs and a further £1 for equipment. Performance According to standard Sa practice, the partnership will receive a 20 per cent. advance payment to cover work capital requirements. Most interesting is the fact that performance bond demanded 10 per cent. on an annual basis, each year, which is a 2 per cent. for the full value of the contract, compares with the 10 per cent. once demanded from contractors, which since summer has been reduced to 5 per cent. for some deals. The local partner has responsibility for PRIC obligations in respect of share of advance payment performance bonds. Guarantees for Waste Management have been provided by a portfolio of U.S. banks including Continental Bank of Illinois. Commenting on this aspect of financing, Saudi Arabia where the local bonds can be called without explanation) Mr. Peter Pritchard, chairman of the U.K. consortium said, "we have no financial liability, as our partners are arranging the bonds. This been a great help in us expressed hopes that the U.K. companies will be able to competitively for the contract and supply contracts." U.K. companies, out of a total of 26, were tendering for the contract, for which 10 bids were sent out.

S. Africa's Angola involvement

AT THE HEIGHT of its involvement in Angola, South Africa had in January, 1976, fewer than 2,000 troops there and, backed by two nationalist movements, could have conquered the whole country. A South African armed forces statement said today. The statement provided the first official indication of the extent of South African activities in the former Portuguese colony. UNITA, Dr. Jonas Savimbi, fighting preceding Angolan independence under the MPLA, has been under the MPLA (Angola) area because he was determined to reach a settlement with the MPLA to the advantage of the whole of Angola. Dr. Savimbi's supporters are still fighting a guerrilla war against the MPLA and its Cuban military supporters. Of FNLA leader Dr. Holden Roberto, the statement said, "against the advice of South Africa, Roberto gambled away his forces on careless attacks, instead of using them for the retention of his traditional areas of influence. The results for FNLA were disastrous." Agencies

Syria 'rejects' Israeli demands

PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD of Syria today told President Elies Kisi of Lebanon that he would not accede to Israeli demands that the Syrian-dominated Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon pull back from its southernmost positions, according to political sources here. "The Arab deterrent forces in the south will not pull out and will not abide by Israeli demands," he was quoted as saying. The talks in Damascus between the two leaders follow Israeli protests last week against the peace-keeping force's advance to the town of Nabatiyeh, nine miles north of the Israeli border. UPI Our Beirut correspondent adds: Both conservative and radical factions here describe the Damascus talks as laying foundations for a stronger relationship between the two countries. Observers said that the talks have opened the door to a more permanent basis, and have established an "organic link" between the two. They said that the mention in a joint communique of a "common working plan" to coordinate policy, which aides of both presidents are now formulating, reflects recent Syrian strategy of strengthening links with certain Arab states. A Syrian-Egyptian "united political leadership" has been formed as a basis for union between the two countries; Damascus is already linked to Jordan by a "joint leadership" composed of President Assad and King Hussein; and efforts are said to be under way to bring the Palestine Liberation Organisation into the fold. The

More orders for Dutch shipyards

BY MICHAEL VAN OS

THE DAYS of gloom seem to be over for the troubled Dutch shipbuilding industry—at least for the time being. Large orders are being signed again, notably by Holland's dominant yard Rijkswaerf, which has signed for nothing to do with improved market conditions for shipbuilders. Fleet modernisation is the catchword, a development that has been made possible by the Dutch Government, which on the one hand, specially assists the shipbuilders and on the other hand the yards, mostly in employment aid. To-day, the Rotterdam shipping company incantans, part of the Swedish Brostrom Group, announced it has signed a letter of intent with RSV for the building of two 24,000 ton container ships. The order value is around £1,200m. (£50m.) and it included the construction of a large number of containers for the two ships which will have a carrying capacity of about 1,450 containers each. The ships, which will be installed with RSV-Sulzer engines, will sail under the Dutch flag and be introduced in all probability in incantans' jointly-operated service to the U.S. Gulf ports. In The Hague, Holland's largest shipping company, NSU, said today that it would probably be only a matter of days before contracts would be signed for the construction in Holland of two Ro-Ro ships (about 20,000 dwt each) and two multi-purpose ships (about 21,000 dwt each). An NSU spokesman would not disclose the value of the order. He said the position was understood to be that agreement had been reached as far as the Government investment subsidy for the company, but that the waiting was for the financial aid arrangement with the yard. There will no doubt be RSV, the sole Dutch builder of large ships. It goes almost without saying that the orders are loss-making for the yard. RSV also had to accept a loss on a big car ferry order, which it received last month from the Dutch Zeeland Steamship Company, which runs the Hook of Holland car ferries link jointly with British Rail. The size of the losses is never disclosed. It is not only RSV which is

Exports to EEC rise sharply

Exports to the EEC and the Middle East showed a marked rise in 1976, according to a report prepared by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In its economic report for February the Chamber said that exports to the EEC rose from £6.4bn. in 1975 to £9.2bn. and at the same time the Community's share of British exports went up 2.3 per cent. Sales in the Middle East and North Africa totalled £2.9bn. and accounted for 11.2 per cent of exports—a rise of 1.5 per cent. As far as individual markets are concerned the biggest increases were Saudi Arabia, up by 100 per cent to £400.2m. and Nigeria, up by 51 per cent to £774.1m. Saudi Arabia is now Britain's 17th largest market compared with 23rd in 1975 and 29th in 1974. The increase for Nigeria, which is now the 10th largest market, is even more dramatic, having gone up from 13th in 1975 and 21st in 1974. The main exports to both countries are machinery and transport equipment. The U.S., where sales totalled £2.5bn., is still the leading export market followed by West Germany (£1.8bn.), France (£1.7bn.), Netherlands (£1.4bn.), Belgium-Luxembourg (£1.4bn.) and Ireland (£1.3bn.).

Sierra Leone calming down

MOSCOW, Feb. 3.

LIFE IN the West African nation of Sierra Leone is gradually returning to normal, following violent student riots in Freetown, the capital, the TASS news agency said today. A 7 p.m.-6 a.m. curfew declared by President Siaka Stevens remains in effect, according to TASS, and police are still guarding Government buildings and patrolling streets. Schools have been closed until Monday. But TASS said that most offices and shops were open, and it quoted a Government statement saying that most students detained during the rioting had been released. UPI

Lazards offers new export finance plan

BY MARGARET HUGHES

LAZARD BROTHERS yesterday announced a new scheme aimed at making foreign currency financing of British capital goods, now being pressed on exporters by ECGD, more attractive to overseas buyers and thus to U.K. exporters. The scheme is still being considered by the Treasury, Bank of England, and Exports Credit Guarantee Department, but with their knowledge and support is currently being used in the negotiation of a major contract involving GEC and Babcock and Wilcox. The buyer is still exposed to foreign exchange risks but, based on current interest rate differentials—between the cost of Eurocurrency borrowing and the yield on gilts—it is also anticipated that the redemption price on the latter will substantially exceed the cost of the foreign currency borrowing. In this situation the overseas borrower stands to make a gain which he can either use to effect reduce the sterling contract price—be will need to borrow less. Alternatively, the potential gain can be used to finance a higher proportion of the sterling contract price while still allowing ECGD to keep within the Berne Union agreement. This potential gain gives the British contractor a price advantage which can be used during his contract negotiations. Over a three year draw down period it is estimated that the potential gain could be 10 per cent. It also means that he can invoice in sterling which keeps his own costing estimates though the deal is financed in foreign currency. The advantage for the Government is that it brings an immediate cash benefit to the balance of payments without the usual problem of sterling reserves held by foreign investors since the funds would be commercial sterling balances and would be locked in. The sterling deposits could only be withdrawn if for any reason the contracts were terminated. The main advantages are that it eliminates a long draw down period—while it is at variance with normal Eurocurrency borrowing terms and requires no commitment on the forward market by the contractor.

INSURGENCY IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

No threat to the dominoes—yet

BY RICHARD NATIONS IN BANGKOK

EVERY government in peninsula south-east Asia faces at least one well-armed insurgency and Burma as many as 12. Even in Cambodia, the only apparent exception, unconfirmed rumours persist that the Khmer Krom minority Vietnamese in Cambodia are up in arms against Phnom Penh, aided surreptitiously by Hanoi. And if the Khmer Rouge are not yet placated by the chronic insurgency that debilitates neighbouring regimes, the distant prospect of mass rebellion can offer but little consolation. The Communist regimes of Hanoi and Peking have yet to subdue thoroughly the once Western-backed anti-Communist insurgencies of the hill tribes. The Green Beret-trained organisation of the Montagnard Union in central Vietnam, and the United Liberation of the Races (primaries, continues to harass official movements in the central highlands, although its numbers have probably dwindled into the low hundreds since the Americans left. Tribal resistance in Laos, on the other hand, appears to be waning. The last two Pathet Lao pilots to defect to Thailand claim they were involved in bombing and strafing missions throughout the hills surrounding Luang Prabang on the western edge of the Plaines des Jarres. Diplomatic sources here report fresh divisions have moved in from Vietnam to secure the Pathet Lao base areas, releasing Lao troops to suppress Men insurgents whom most observers think still enjoy a bit as strong as when the CIA organised and armed a force of thousands under Vang Pao, now in America. Nor are the non-Communist governments of the region—Thailand, Malaysia and Burma—having an easier time. All face veteran communist guerrillas who have been entrenched in the hills for more than a decade. Bangkok faces at least 9,000 Communist Party of Thailand combat forces distributed in three parts of the country—2,600 in the north, another 3,500 in the northeast, 1,300 in the Banthat mountain ranges of the mid-south and another 400,000 others scattered along the Burmese and Cambodian borders. Malaysian communist insurgents number close to 3,000 and the embankment of near-impenetrable jungles and past indifference in Bangkok has provided them with sanctuary in Sudan, Reim and Narivati provinces just across the border in Thailand. The Communist Party of Burma "white flag" (pro-Peking)

U.K. chemical sales abroad up by 39%

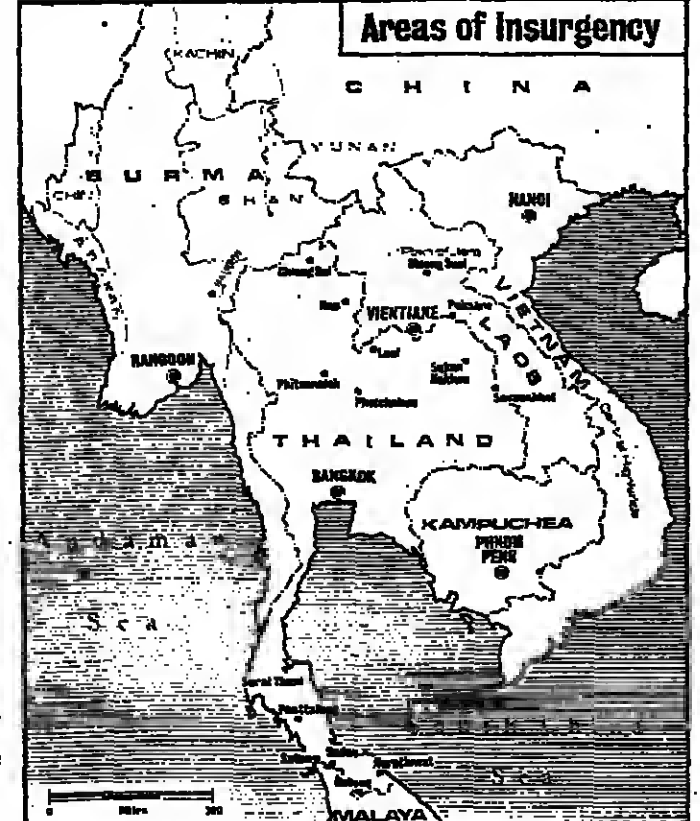
By Our Industrial Staff

U.K. CHEMICAL exports last year increased by 39 per cent, last year, reaching a record level of £3.2bn. Imports grew by 42 per cent to £2.1bn., but the overall balance was a record £1.1bn. According to official statistics published this week in the weekly European Chemical News, the trade balance with other EEC countries is less encouraging, having widened from a marginal deficit of £7.3m. in 1975 to nearly £120m. last year. U.K. imports from other EEC countries grew by some 59 per cent to £2.1bn. The main exporters of chemicals to the U.K. were West Germany, the Netherlands, and the U.S. The Dutch were the main importers of U.K. chemicals. The key to containing communist influence lies in a combination of economic, political and foreign policies which raise the mass standard of living, avoid hard lines of confrontation in towns and preserve the currently tenuous regional power balance. With the major industrial powers threatening to prolong the pause towards full economic recovery, the increasing drift towards hard-line right-wing rule in the region and the ceaseless turbulence of Sino-Soviet conflict unsettling the regional power equation, insurgency may well have a brighter future than it would otherwise.

Hong Kong deal for Hawker

HONG KONG, Feb. 3.

THE FIRST contract in the construction of a \$HK175m. (about £21.875m.) sewage treatment plant at Sha Tin New Town, in the Hong Kong New Territories, has been awarded to Hawker Siddeley Water Engineering. The \$HK3.7m. (about £462,500) contract, for the supply of fine bubble aeration equipment, was signed, today.



secessionists of the Patani Liberation Front whose fighting base is estimated at 300-500. Independent Burma has become a patchwork of ethnic insurgencies with every non-ethnic Burman nationality—the Karen, the Shan, Kachin, Naga, Arakanese, Chin, and Mon—throwing up its own armed force to combat the "greater Burmah chauvinism." These together number at least 12,000. Add to this gangs of bandits, highwaymen and opium smugglers each of which can contain up to 300 armed men, and a surfeit of Indo-Chinese material purveyed by runners

Barclays Bank Base Rate. Barclays Bank Limited and Barclays Bank International Limited announce that with effect from the close of business on 4th February, 1977, their Base Rate will be decreased from 13% to 12 1/2% per annum. The basic interest rate for deposits will be decreased by 1/2% from 9 1/2% to 9% per annum.

مكتبات الامم المتحدة

مكتبات الصحف

HOME NEWS

Plan to reshape power industry hits snag

DISAGREEMENT between Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Energy Secretary, and leaders of the nationalised electricity supply industry... Mr. Benn has said that at a time when Parliament is debating Devolution...

More try to obtain places at university

APPLICATIONS for university places rose by more than 9 per cent. last year—the second consecutive increase after several years in which the number remained almost constant... The figures show a strong recovery of interest in engineering and technology studies...

Oil companies likely to receive £160m. in State aid

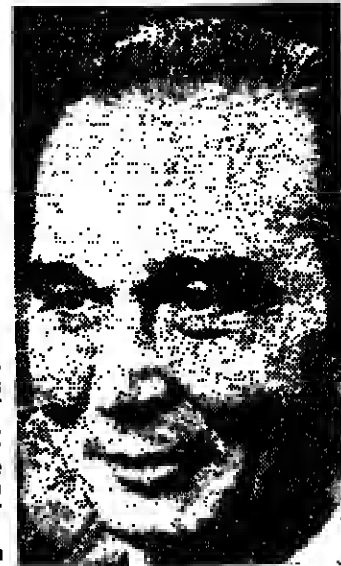
THE GOVERNMENT stands to hand out some £160m. in regional development grants to oil companies to help them build terminals, according to a highly critical report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General... In his report, published yesterday, the Comptroller also reveals that the net cost to the U.K. of building the 14 saleable production Concordes will be about £200m. and that Rolls-Royce, on instructions from the NEB, is preparing a new five year plan...

NEWS ANALYSIS — ULSTER VIOLENCE

Change of tactics by the Provos

BY GILES MERRITT

THE MOTIVE behind the killing in Londonderry of Mr. Jeffrey Agate, Du Pont's Northern Ireland general manager, by two gunmen, thought to be from the Provisional IRA is being anxiously analysed... Speculation about the incident ranges from it being a plan by the Provisionals to upset the Government's efforts to attract foreign investment to the possibility that it was just another indiscriminate shooting in the last seven years of violence in Ulster...



Mr. Jeffrey Agate who was shot dead outside his home on Wednesday evening.

This winter, shootings and a spate of booby-trap attempts on the lives of policemen in the Royal Ulster Constabulary and reservists have resulted in five deaths. In response, the Army has increased patrols and road checks in problem districts as the only practical form of deterrence.

There remains, however, one major factor capable of dissuading the Provisionals from attacking industrialists. The large companies prevent the already high unemployment figure from getting even worse. Du Pont, for instance, with a 2,000 workforce at the Maydown plant, producing Neoprene, Hylene, Lycra, and Orlon synthetics, is Londonderry's biggest employer.

Warning

Joblessness, approaching 11 per cent., is already twice the British rate and by further endangering employment the Provisionals risk alienating support in even the staunchest Republican strongholds.

With the resumption of IRA activity in Britain and signs in Ulster of an intensified campaign, Mr. Roy Mason, the Northern Ireland Secretary, could be about to face his first real security crisis since arriving in Belfast last September.

Senior army officers are concerned that their warnings last summer of reorganisation inside the Provisionals are now being borne out.

The change from para-military "battalions" and "brigades" to cells and an efficient cut-out system has greatly tightened the movement's internal security. Rank-and-file members in Belfast are believed to be ignorant of the tactical programme adopted by the planners and the seven-man IRA army council.

British Army and RUC co-operation is said to be better than ever, with a revitalised RUC increasingly turning the army's selective intelligence findings into evidence so that convictions now run at about 50 per cent. of arrests—twice as high as before.

Army officers nevertheless fear that since detention without trial is ruled out they have little in the way of emergency measures left in reserve to counter a determined Provisional campaign.

Inter-City 125 service boost

BRITISH RAIL'S Western Region is to increase the number of Inter-City 125 trains running on the London to Bristol and South Wales routes from Monday, bringing the total covering the route daily at high speed to 48.

Gallaher £12m. investment

BY STUART ALEXANDER

GALLAHER is to invest a further £12m. over the next three to four years in modernising cigarette factories and buying new machinery in Northern Ireland and Manchester... The bulk of the money, about £8m., will be spent in Belfast where the old York Street factory, used to make pipe tobaccos, will eventually close and manufacture will be transferred to the nearby Henry Street factory... The investment programme is in addition to £35m. the company has been spending on its cigar production plant in South Wales. Some cigars are also produced at Ballymena, along with Old Hobbers hand rolling tobacco, which recorded a sales increase of nearly 6 per cent. last year.

RUSTENBURG PLATINUM HOLDINGS LIMITED

The company regrets that in the Review by the Chairman published in this newspaper on Thursday, 3rd February, under the heading "Outlook" the possible dividend payments for the present financial year were compared to those of 1975.

The wording should have read "Consequently, the total dividend payments for the present financial year could be either the same as or less than those of 1976."

3rd February, 1977

THIS AMAZING DEVICE TURNED £7,000 INTO £12,000.

their South Wales factory, TI Accles & Pollock decided to install similar systems in the remainder of their Oldbury site.

They've invested a further £15,000, but with savings estimated at over £25,000 a year, it's well worth it.

Just as their more conventional energy saving schemes like lagging and boiler insulation were worth it. For a cost of £21,000 they saved £48,700 in the first year.

You can find out more details of how Heat Optimisation helped TI Accles & Pollock Save It, and receive our series of technical Fuel Efficiency Booklets, by filling in the coupon.

For a device which saves so much money, it has to be worth your while. Save It. TI Accles & Pollock are making it pay.

To: Department of Energy, Free Publications, PO Box 242, London SE1 0DE

Please send me the details of how TI Accles & Pollock benefited from Heat Optimisation, and your series of seven technical Fuel Efficiency Booklets.

Name, Company, Address, Position

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



Early in 1975, TI Accles & Pollock, the West Midlands tin-makers, put £7,000 into the device. After only twelve months, their investment had returned £12,000—that's how much fuel it saved them.

The device is a Heat Optimiser. Using a series of thermostats (which monitor both internal and external temperatures) and a knowledge of the thermal characteristics of the building, the Optimiser calculates the most efficient time to begin heating a factory or office block.

By automatically switching the boilers on or off at the optimum time, it takes the guesswork, and a lot of wasted fuel out of space heating.

Encouraged by the 25% reduction in heating costs that their first Heat Optimiser obtained in

tain £140 audi ntrac... HAD JOHN... Matte... ak... and Limited... he close... their... 13:30... posts... 10:1... CLAYS national

HOME NEWS

Baking groups prepare for new round of price rises

BY ELINOR GOODMAN, CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ON THE day the six-week bread dispute was finally resolved, the big baking groups yesterday began preparations for another round of price rises. RHM Bakers said it was about to notify the Price Commission of its intention of raising the price of both its standard and large loaves by 1p in a month's time. This means that any price cuts resulting from the end of the van drivers' boycott of shops selling out-price bread may be largely wiped out next month by the manufacturers' price rises. The applications which, if successful, would take the maximum price in most parts of the country up to 22p, is based on the higher cost of flour and fuel, together with the cost of the additional discounts RHM has been giving some of its customers since the removal of the statutory ceiling on discounts last month. The other big baking companies - Associated British Foods and Spillers - French have both been affected by the same cost increases and it is thought they too will shortly submit applications for price rises. The applications would have been submitted to the Price Commission within the next week even if the van drivers' dispute had not been resolved. But if they are successful, they will mean that the Government will have to modify the discount table published last month as part of the new arrangements on bread prices which started the six-week dispute. Yesterday, as the bread delivery drivers' union executed the boycott of shops selling bread at heavily-cut prices, some groups, such as Tesco and Fine Fare, were preparing to reduce their prices in those areas where the van drivers had forced them to sell bread at over 15p. Other groups, like Asda, which had gone without bread rather than put its prices up, were able to sell bread again at 17p. But though some price cuts are likely after the end of the union action, the big baking groups seem determined not to increase the size of discounts they give their retail customers, and the Road Transport Union is apparently prepared to back them on this point. Mr. Roy Hattersley, Prices Secretary, said yesterday that the union's agreement to end the boycott had been "unconditional". But some of the individual baking companies seemed to think that the agreement depended partly on their promise not to give discounts of over 25.75 per cent. Some smaller bakers were believed to be offering better terms, but the big groups said they could not afford to go over 27 per cent. Nor did they think the unions would tolerate them doing so. The end of the van drivers' boycott does mean, however, that retailers will be able to finance bigger price cuts themselves if they want to. The union has been refusing to deliver to shops selling bread at less than 18p even if the retailer were paying for the price cut himself. Now retailers may be able to negotiate discounts up to the equivalent of 3p off a loaf, as well as reducing their own profit margins on bread by cutting the price further.

European loan for telephone project

By Kevin Done, Industrial Staff

THE POST OFFICE has secured a loan of £18.5m. from the European Investment Bank to help finance improvements to the telephone service in Northern Ireland. During the next two years the Post Office is spending £55m. on expanding and modernising telecommunications in the province. The loan will finance part of the capital expenditure programme, which includes the building of 17 telephone exchanges, 124 exchanges to existing telephone exchanges and the provision of 73,900 new exchange lines. According to the Post Office, the interest rates on the loan are lower than can be obtained in the U.K. The fourth tranche to the Post Office, is at a fixed 8 per cent, and will be repaid over ten years. The corporation has now borrowed £70.5m. from the EIB for investment in telecommunications services. The first loan made in 1975 is being used to finance improvements to the telephone service in Wales. Two more loans are being used to fund modernisation programmes in Scotland and the North-East of England. Normally exchange risks on foreign loans taken out by the Post Office are borne by the Treasury under an exchange cover scheme. At the end of the last financial year foreign loans amounting to £484.4m. were outstanding, compared with total borrowings of £3,667.2m. With the protection of the exchange cover scheme, foreign loans have proved an increasingly attractive source of finance for the Post Office. The telecommunications investment programme is running at an annual level of more than £900m. and the corporation is adamant that high profit levels are necessary to finance the programme. Profits could exceed £170m. this year - if it is moving towards achieving a 75 per cent self-financing ratio for the investment programme.

Hotel fire risk rebuff by Spanish Tourist Office

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

ACCUSATIONS that some Spanish hotels "lack the most basic fire precautions" provoked waspish comment from the Spanish National Tourist Office last night. A team from the British magazine Building Design visited Spain recently and has produced a report which says that though the number of fires in hotels is high, failure of provisions facilities "creates the risk of a major tragedy." The report quotes as example an hotel fire at Benidorm two years ago, in which 39 Belgian holidaymakers were hurt jumping from windows and falling from knotted sheets as a fire raged on the first two floors. The service stairs were unaffected by the fire, but the tourists did not know they were there. "Such incidents point to the potential for a disaster of major proportions. Action is needed now to insure against such an eventuality," said the report. It suggested that in the hotels visited there were no fire exits, and that nowhere was the legal requirement of two extinguishers to ten bedrooms met. Bathroom ventilators which could quickly spread fire throughout a hotel were criticised. There is mention of a lack of fire alarms, no smoke or fire detectors, few emergency lighting systems. In hotels inspected "the only method of raising slooping residents is by shouting 'Fire' or ringing all the rooms by phone from the switchboard." The Spanish National Tourist Office spokesmen in London rejected the report, saying that most of the hotels were steel reinforced concrete structures, and were not "in practical terms, inflammable." The reply went on: "There are a total of 23,114 hotels and guest houses in Spain, most of them built over the past ten years. In the past ten years there were no deaths due to fires and only 12 injuries. Against this, in 1972 (the last year for which full British statistics are available) there were 1,044 hotel fires in Britain, 42 of which resulted in 27 deaths and 102 injuries." The Spaniards claim that local laws insist on comprehensive fire requirements. There were inspection three times a year. "We would doubt whether the Spanish experts would presume to advise British authorities on their regulations," say the Spaniards. Anyway, there was some doubt whether the British fire record entitled a U.K. magazine to make such judgments. "It is therefore both the law and the practice in Spain, if a fire breaks out, for the staff who

Meriden likely to lay off 600 to-day

AN UNEXPECTED delay in the Government announcement of its rescue plans for the Meriden Motor-Cycle Co-operative probably means that 600 of the 700 co-operative employees will be laid off to-day.

Finalisation of the rescue deal has run into trouble over methods of valuing some of the assets which the co-operative will take over from NVT, another Government-backed motor-cycle company. Legal details are taking longer to sort out than expected, and the administration expected this week may now be put off until next week. Because of these difficulties, Mr. Dennis Johnson, the co-operative chairman, expects that most of the workforce will have to be laid off for the rest of the month.

Statement

This is to allow consignee stocks of 1,500 Bonneville machines to be run down during negotiations to acquire machinery and other rights from NVT. Fewer than 100 workers are needed for the £50,000 contract with Steyr-Daimler Puch assembly Joger exercis machines and Moto Guzzi 125 bikes from imported Italian components to be prepared for coming fully independent.

Except for some minor issues, heads of terms have almost been concluded with NVT and a Co-mons statement is expected. Media early next week the agreement has been reached "subject to contract."

Mr. Dennis Poore, NVT chairman, last night pointed out that the Government statement was a signal that the start - not the conclusion - of an agreement. He was not anticipating a hitch. 11 companies - America, Australia and elsewhere were involved and legal documents would be drawn up. He recalled that NVT's involvement in buying and selling Meriden machines was a prelude to four months after the original Government announcement.

Marketing

A statement is being necessary to clear the air, encourage dealers to buy, and hanging back in the belief that the co-operative price is its Bonneville will be cheap than the present price of over £1,000 a machine. Suppliers Meriden are giving the co-operative full support. Meanwhile Lord Stokes, former chairman and now president of British Leyland, flying California to assess the "smoke" market here and is a student of gaining sales for Bonville. U.S. dealers over before Christmas to help the co-operative in preparing its mission to the Government estimated a 1977 market of around 7,000 of them.

BSC in sheet steel sale drive

BY ROY HODSON

THE BRITISH Steel Corporation is to start a sheet steel sales drive to recover trade lost to imports. The BSC knows it has a fight ahead in order to win back the sheet trade. Imports account for approximately half of the sheet steel sales in Britain. Many manufacturing companies switched to foreign steel makers during the Corporation's production difficulties and are unwilling to break relationships with their new supplies. But production is running smoothly again. "We are more optimistic about our production position than we have been for a very long time," said Mr. Robson. The Corporation's share of the steel market has fallen dramatically over the last two years because of labour and production troubles in the strip mills. But production is running smoothly again. "We are more optimistic about our production position than we have been for a very long time," said Mr. Robson.

Clyde jobs may be saved

BY JOHN WYLES, SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT

SCOTT LITHGOW, the Lower Clyde shipbuilders, is believed to be clinching an agreement which could remove the threat of redundancies for up to 1,500 of its employees. The jobs were put at risk by Maritime Fruit Carriers' default on payments due for the construction of a 262,000 d.w.t. oil tanker. The company suspended work on the vessel last summer and in collaboration with the Department of Industry has searched for an alternative buyer. It is understood that a purchasing agreement may be signed shortly with a shipping company whose name is as yet undisclosed. This would clear the way for initial steel fabrication work within a few weeks, and would provide employment for workers at the company's Cartdyke yard who are now very close to redundancy. The Government came under strong pressure last month to finance the speculative construction of the tanker from a delegation of management and union representatives, MPs and civic officials from the Greenock area. The Department of Industry has set its face against

Local authority home loans down

BY MICHAEL CASSELL, BUILDING CORRESPONDENT

MORTGAGE lending by local authorities, according to the Building Societies Association, has fallen 14 per cent in the first 12 months of 1977, compared with the same period in 1976. During 1976, the societies themselves lent £6.1bn, accounting for the remaining 85 per cent. This level, compared with £5.5bn in the previous year, and is a little above the percentages reached in 1971 and 1972, during the last "boom" in local authority lending. According to the Association, building societies last year made a record 154,000 advances in England and Wales on houses

built before 1919. This represents an increase of 39,000 on the previous 12 months and a record 22.8 per cent of all loans made during the year. Commenting on the figures, Mr. Norman Griggs, secretary-general of the Association, said: "The end of December societies had approved mortgages totalling £130m. in England and Wales for people nominated by local authorities. They also considerably increased their lending on older houses outside the formal scheme.

Leyland also raises prices

BRITISH Leyland will raise its car prices by 6.5 per cent on Monday. The rises which follow those by Ford and Chrysler, will leave the smallest Mini £175 cheaper than the smallest Anglia Fiesta. There are clear signs that the new Leyland prices have been set with the arrival of the Fiesta on the market in mind. The Allegro, 1100 two-door, for instance, at £1,971, will be about £200 cheaper than the cheapest Fiesta 1100 (£2,178).

Companies Act deadlines given

BY MICHAEL LAFFERTY, CITY STAFF

THE TIMETABLE for implementing the main provisions of the Companies Act, 1976, was outlined in the Commons yesterday by Mr. Stanley Clinton Davis, Under-Secretary for Companies, Aviation and Shipping. Among the Act's principal provisions are requirements for companies to file their accounts with the Registrar of Companies within a fixed period and to have accounting reference dates. It also reduces the threshold for disclosure of interests in shares from 10 per cent to 5 per cent and gives listed companies the right to ask for the names of the beneficial owners of shares held under nominee names. The following is a summary of the Act, with the implementation dates for the various sections: Accounts - Sections 1 to 11 contain a new procedure for filing company accounts with the Registrar of Companies, replacing the requirements of the Companies Act, 1948, which required filing within a fixed period, normally ten months for private companies and seven for public, after each accounting reference period. Before the system comes into operation, all companies will be asked to tell the Registrar the date on which their accounting reference period ends so that he knows if a company has failed to file on time. (Implementation date, March 1.) Section 12 tightens up requirements on companies' accounting records and amending procedures for their appointment and removal. (April 15.) Returns to Registrar - The law on information to be supplied to the Registrar about a company's directors, secretary and registered office is amended (April 18). Notification of interests in shares - The law on disclosure of interests in shares is amended, including a reduction from 5 per cent to 10 per cent in the threshold for notification of any class of voting shares, and from 14 to five days in the period for notification. Listed companies will have the right to require registered shareholders to disclose whether they are beneficial owners of shares, and if not who has an interest in the shares (April 19). Disqualification Orders - The Secretary of State can apply to the courts for an Order disqualifying a person from acting as director of a company for up to five years if he has been persistently in default in filing returns. (June 1.) Welsh companies - The Act regularises the use of the Welsh language under the Companies Act, and permits use of "cwyngedig" instead of "limited" in certain cases (April 15). Overseas companies - The Trade Secretary can prevent a foreign company with a place of business in the U.K. from trading under a misleading name (April 15).

Plea for tax change

BY JAMES McDONALD

MR. DENIS HEALEY has been asked by the National Chamber of Trade to give special consideration to the needs of smaller businesses when drafting his Budget proposals. The Chamber, which represents about 800 local chambers of trade and commerce and 33 national trade associations, calls for "absolute priority" to be given to counter-inflationary measures. Although the Chamber supports a further stage in the Government's wages policy, it believes that the present policy, which it describes as "rigid," needs to be modified to provide an incentive to increased effort by the skilled worker, those in managerial positions, and proprietors of private enterprises. "A relaxation in the present policy regarding the taxation of investment income and of profits reinvested in business would do much to restore confidence and persuade investors and business proprietors to utilize savings and profits for productive purposes." At present, the Chamber of the pressure of taxation leads to a serious cash flow problem. "The burden of capital income taxes, together with inflation, threatens the existence of smaller businesses and makes almost impossible for them to develop or to finance the additional working capital necessary and the replacement and improvement of plant premises." In another submission to the Chancellor, the National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses asks for an increase in the personal income-tax allowance. It states that, if smaller businesses are to survive the effects of a major shareholder and a change to employ and pay a maximum level, there should be more relief from capital taxes. The initial registration for V should be raised from £5,000 to £20,000, and there should be some form of reimbursement for business losses with a turnover of less than £100,000.

Japanese imports turn table for major U.K. manufacturer

NEWS ANALYSIS - HI-FI EQUIPMENT

GOLDRING, THE hi-fi turntable and cartridge manufacturer appointed a receiver yesterday after a two-year loss because of competition from Japanese imports. The receiver, appointed by Barclays Bank will decide in the next week what is to be done with the company whose turnover has been slipping from a peak of £2.5m. in 1974 to £1.6m. in 1975. Ironically, Goldring has been doing quite well in exports helped by its range of magnetic pick-up cartridges, the G900. Nevertheless, the company has been heavily dependent on the U.K. market where hi-fi sales have been depressed for the past two years. About 30 to 40 per cent of Goldring's business has been in the U.K. Most of the turntables sold by Goldring are manufactured by Lenco in Switzerland, so that the falling value of the pound has made its exports competitive with Garrard, the major U.K. manufacturer in the field, and with low-priced Japanese imports. According to Mr. Derek Smith, managing director of Lasky, the leading U.K. hi-fi retailer, the Goldring turntables have not been suitably styled for the U.K. market. Lasky stopped stocking them two years ago. This decision was a severe blow to the company, particularly because it did not have a share of the market for turntables incorporated in radiograms and music centres. In the last three years Japanese imports of separate turntables have soared from less than 10 per cent to about 60 per cent of the market, which now stands at about 200,000 units a year. Lasky is selling large numbers of Japanese units, which Mr. Smith says are competitively priced, attractively styled, and give good performance. Top selling brands are the Pioneer PL12D, a belt driven turntable

Japanese imports turn table for major U.K. manufacturer

retailing at £55 to £60 and Trio CD 1033 at about £3 less. Mr. Smith says the Goldring turntables, using a rim drive, were technically old-fashioned compared with the Japanese imports. The difficulties of Goldring and the rise of the Japanese in the medium-priced hi-fi market have as yet, only dented Britain's world supremacy in the total turntable market. BSR, the biggest company with a turnover in its sound reproduction division of nearly £62m. in 1976, has about 70 to 75 per cent of the world market. It has major exports to Japan and to the U.S., with a concentration on cheap high-volume production of turntables to be incorporated into other sound systems. BSR has been trying hard to capture a greater share of the hi-fi market; but its new and technically advanced turntable, the Accutra, is said to be rather too expensive for the U.K. market. Production has been less than planned, although sales in North America have been quite good. Second, after BSR, comes Garrard, which has concentrated on the higher end of the market. It has about 10 per cent of the world market, and is the U.K. brand leader with some 25 per cent of the separate units. About 70 per cent of its production is exported. Five or six years ago Goldring could have been counted in the same league with about 20 per cent of the U.K. market, but since then the company's share has declined. The U.K. market breaks roughly into two parts, the larger of which, dominated by BSR, is for units to be incorporated into other audio systems. It accounted for about 1.05m. units in 1976, of which BSR had about 65 per cent. Philips and Garrard each had less than 20 per cent.

Japanese imports turn table for major U.K. manufacturer

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Advertisement for Golden Hope Plantations Limited. Features the slogan 'NO TO HME' and details of share offers and company proposals. Includes a section titled 'Consider:-' with numbered points regarding relative values, uncertainties, and cash alternatives.

Advertisement for Goldring hi-fi turntables. Includes a photograph of a turntable and text describing its features and availability. Mentions 'The second part of the market is separate units ranging up to 2000 units last year' and 'Production has been less than planned'.

مقالات المصلى

The Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHWETERS

PROCESSING

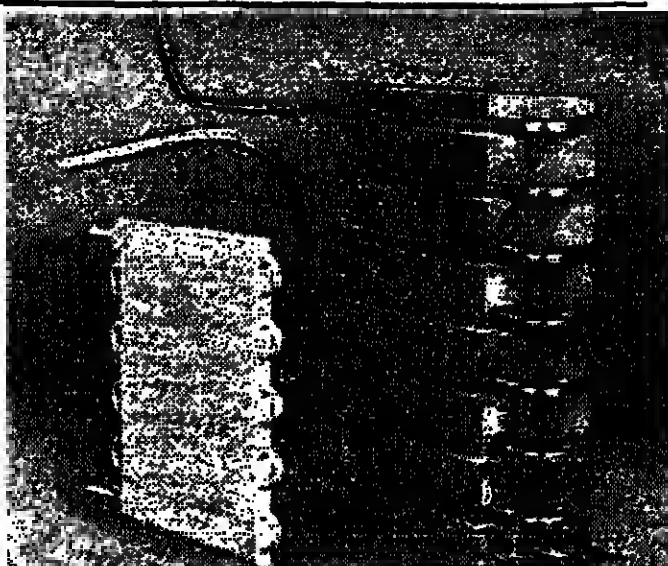
Condenser power in a tiny unit

CONDENSERS for chest freezers there are a number of possibilities. The use of an air filter as a rule, rather bulky. However, an appreciably more compact design is possible periodical cleaning or exchange, which will still maintain cooling capacity.

This optimum condenser design allows of reducing the volume of the condenser by a factor of 30 without any diminished cooling capacity even during prolonged use.

Basing themselves on aerodynamic analyses of the design of the condenser the Philips Research Laboratories were able, by the use of a fine mesh lamellar construction, to reduce the dimensions of the condenser drastically without impairing the cooling capacity in any way.

An important point then became that the narrow gaps between the lamellae, through which the fan had to blow the cooling air, did not become clogged by dust. To achieve this,



there is a number of possibilities. The use of an air filter is obvious but suffers from the objection of necessitating periodical cleaning or exchange, which will still maintain cooling capacity.

A much more elegant solution of the problem was to have the fan driven by a symmetric synchronous motor, of which the direction of running is not predetermined at the instant of starting. In comparison with other electric motors of the same power, such a motor is cheap and has a high efficiency.

In the case of intermittent switching on and off, controlled by the operation of a chest freezer by the thermostat, the motor—and therefore the fan—will start now in one direction and then in the other. Hence the direction of the condenser is continuously reversed. After the reversal of the direction of running, the fan blows away the dust which, during a previous period of running, has begun to collect on one side of the condenser surface.

In comparison with current laboratory experiments: they do not necessarily imply a mental model fabricated in the follow-up in production or marketing. More from Philips at PO Box 523, Eindhoven, Holland.

SERVICES

Amsterdam centre for Mark III

OPENING of a new large computer facility near Amsterdam by General Electric Company of the U.S. marks the establishment of the first centre outside the U.S. to support the world-wide activities of the Mark III time-sharing network, now the most extensive in existence.

This network has some 100 computers installed in it and uses both satellites and cables to connect service centres in most advanced countries with the very large data centres. GE has set up in Maryland and Ohio. As time goes by, Amsterdam will be integrated with these and will ultimately be serving customers in North America, Japan, Australia and Europe.

GE claims reliability and availability levels better than 99 per cent. due to advanced software and control techniques allowing several computers to obtain access to many databases at the same time.

The costs for the new centre in Holland have been given as \$5m. of which around \$3m. is for

the computing equipment. Meanwhile the worldwide remote computing market is now approaching the \$1bn. level. What the Mark III share of this could be is not disclosed, but with over 100 computers in use and more than 500 large users in 30 countries, the service must be taking an appreciable fraction of the overall total.

That it is profitable is underlined by the tenacity with which GE is holding on to it though the company divested itself of virtually every other computer involvement some years ago.

METALWORKING

Furnace for non-ferrous refining

A RANGE of integrated rotary furnace systems, called Rotaflex Concept 1400, for the reduction, smelting, reclamation or melting of mainly non-ferrous metal and metal ores, has been developed by Holtreck, Friar Street, Drolwiche, Worcs, WR9 8ED (090575661).

The system includes charge and product handling equipment, encapsulated to improve hygiene conditions; a parametric range of short and long rotary furnaces,

with change speed, reversible drive trains and support rolls; improved refractory design; rail-mounted exhaust flue and burner assembly; and economic flue gas and emission control systems, to improve performance.

The company says its design, supplies and installs a whole furnace system on a turnkey basis.

MATERIALS

Easy error correction

ADDITIONAL to the Sperry Remington SR101 golfball typewriter is ECF or error correction facility.

There are two ribbon rather than one. A newly formulated backing for typing leaves an image which can, after mistyping, be lifted off by hitting the same wrong key so that the character impression is through the second, correction ribbon. The latter has a coating of low tack adhesive.

The second ribbon is mounted on the same cartridge/golf ball transport platform and there is an extra "correct" button on the keyboard to invoke the tacky ribbon. More from Remington House, 35 Station Road, Wood Green, London N22 6UT (01 888 1555).

TRANSPORT

Automating the trains

DESIGN to transfer data from track to train to atop trains automatically in stations and at intermediate signals equipment is being provided by Plessey to the Greater Glasgow Public Transport Executive as part of the modernisation of Glasgow underground.

It relies on a beacon (or transponder) installed in the track which transmits coded information to equipment mounted in the train. This checks and decodes the message, then passes a command signal to an automatic train controller. The track-to-train communication system, manufactured by Plessey Traffic, of Poole, can also be used for speed control in restricted areas.

The beacons are sealed units of rugged construction, powered by induction from the passing train, thus requiring no local power supplies or batteries. On the approach to each station two beacons are mounted in the track approximately 150 metres and 4 metres from the required stop line. The first generates the initial braking command to start the braking sequence, the second generates the final braking command to stop each train accurately in the station.

Similarly, trains can be stopped at intermediate signals. In this case the beacons are automatically switched on or off by an external signal derived from the trackside signalling system. If for any reason a train passes a stop signal, the brakes are applied automatically by an entirely separate and independent system.

Starting of trains at stations or intermediate signals is controlled using switched beacons

with an extended aerial. At each station a "permit" command allows the driver to start the train, but at intermediate signals the train starts automatically on detecting the "start" command.

In speed-restricted areas two fixed code beacons are used on entry to the area to generate speed limit commands. For security, a train is only allowed to proceed under automatic control if both commands are detected from the beacons. The system incorporates techniques to check out automatically the operation of the equipment at frequent intervals during normal service.

The basic track-to-train communication system can be effectively "inverted" with the beacon (or transponder) mounted on the train and the detection equipment at the trackside to provide facilities for applications such as positive train identification and automatic wagon identification. These are specific applications of the Plessey Ident-All systems designed for the automatic transfer of data between moving vehicles (or objects) and strategically placed static equipment.

Further from the company at Sopers Lane, Poole, Dorset, DT10 51FL.

Railway motors take less power

METRO-CAMMELL ENGINEERS at their works at Washwood Heath, Birmingham, and London Transport research technicians and engineers are responsible for a new electrical drive which could bring improvements in the operation of

London's underground railway and perhaps for underground railways elsewhere.

At Washwood Heath, the last two standard 3-car units to be manufactured for the new Piccadilly Line rolling stock are being modified for new propulsion equipment, to be fitted for experimental and testing purposes.

Aspects of the new system include power saving by "chopper" control of propulsion using equipment which turns continuous current used by the traction motors into a series of pulses. Other features are regenerative braking and light weight and compact traction motors as powerful as the full sized ones.

A more simple wiring system using eight wires to cope with electrical circuits which normally need up to 120 conventional wires is involved.

The experimental trials will include similar products from rival firms which include GEC and Westinghouse. Modification

POWER

Supplies for big computers

LOW NOISE 75 kVA frequency converters known as Super Silent Block are offered by Anton Piller U.K.

They have noise levels of about 60 dB measured at three feet distance and therefore easily meet the NR-55 specification for noise levels within computer rooms. The units are "IBM Vendor" approved and are suitable for the 370/165, 168, and Audabit systems.

The units convert 50 Hz mains supplies to 400Hz three phase power (at which frequency it is easier to provide a very clean de for the computer). The sound-proofed cabinet contains a brushless rotary converter with solid-state voltage regulator and over-voltage protection circuits. A fly-wheel ensures uninterrupted supplies over a major interruption not exceeding 1.5 seconds.

An efficiency of over 90 per cent. is achieved and the company claims that the mean time between failure of the equipment is at least 150,000 hours, with negligible maintenance costs and minimal downtime. Piller is at Love Lane, Cirencester, Glos. (0285 61377).

TEXTILES

Making the right match anywhere

FOR MORE than ten years Marks and Spencer has been developing systems of accurately measuring and matching colours and it has taken this long for the company finally to introduce a system that enables it to be the only retail organisation in the world that can be sure of precise colour and shade matches. It is possible for a customer to enter an M&S store, buy a jacket and later return to that store—or another—purchase trousers and be sure they will match.

It is possible, of course, that trousers made for a store may be produced by a number of different suppliers while jackets might also be made by different firms. The cloth used could well be made to specification by different companies and then dyed and finished elsewhere.

Unless an agreed system of matching, which embodied various tolerances, could be agreed, it was impossible to attain a standard that would allow this new type of marketing.

most economically, is increasingly being used. M&S has established a standard light throughout its stores, both here and abroad, so that all things behave equally and look the same beneath it.

Now, in collaboration with Instrumental Colour Systems (13 Bone Lane, Newbury, Berks RG14 5TE, Tel. 0635 46775) the final link has been forged.

The new system is based on the ICI Colour Difference Meter and linked to a computer into which has been written calculations supplied by Marks and Spencer. In this way about 100 samples per hour can be checked for degree of match and, depending upon the tolerances, they will be grouped as "Pass," "Inspect" or "Reject." All the information relating to a batch of say 600 pieces of cloth, is printed out and the percentage of samples within the agreed tolerance is shown.

transpired that savings in dyehouses of up to 30 per cent. can be achieved through this new colour matching system. With a company that uses the instrumental match prediction system it is possible, without much expense, to incorporate the M&S standards and with additional hardware and software, incorporate the colour matching.

As might be expected, the biggest hurdle to be jumped was that of agreement on tolerances for the various specifications. Marks and Spencer has adopted the new system for grading menswear fabrics, as this represents a very high unit cost, and is also one of the most difficult types of fabrics to measure, often incorporating several colours. It is felt that once this has been demonstrated as having been overcome it will not prove too difficult to extend instrumental colour matching to other types of fabrics which generally are of much simpler construction and colouring.

The implications of the new system, worldwide are profound and once accepted it might well be that the feedback from the retail could transform the whole attitude of the textile industry and its methods of production.

IF YOU'RE QUICK YOU CAN CATCH US WITH OUR PRICES DOWN.

In common with other car manufacturers, Leyland Cars have to increase their prices occasionally. Regrettably, we are having to do so from midnight, February 6th. However, if you're quick, you can still catch us with our prices down.

That's because, unlike some of our competitors, we encourage our dealers to maintain pre-rise prices on their pre-rise stocks. Stocks of certain models (such as Allegro, Dolomite, TR7 and Princess) will be more abundant than others. So they'll be easier to find.

But even some harder-to-find models should be available, if you ask your Leyland Cars dealer to help you.

And remember, you're covered by Supercover, the most comprehensive parts-and-labour free warranty available. (You now have an option to extend its full benefits for a second year.)

You're backed by the widest dealer network and parts availability. Your car receives a free 69-point checkout before you take delivery.

And automatic seat belts and heated rear window are standard. So select your pre-rise Leyland car from any dealer displaying our 'Beat the Price Rise' sign.

But be quick. There's a limited number of cars. And an unlimited demand.

 **Leyland Cars**
Great cars for a great deal less.

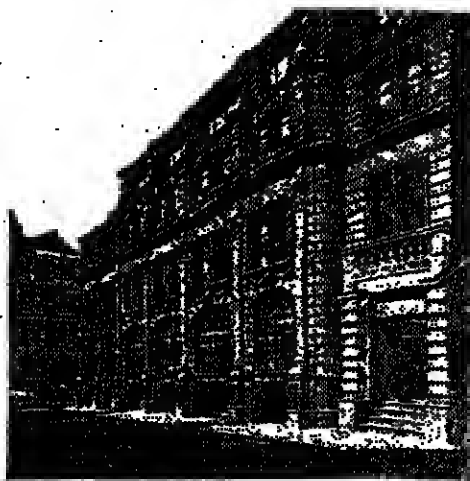
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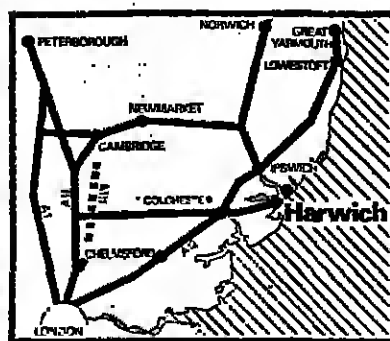
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LABOUR NEWS

Top civil servants 'should be given £3,000 rise'

BY DAVID CHURCHILL, LABOUR STAFF

TOP CIVIL servants should be given pay rises ranging to almost £3,000 a year to compensate for inflation over the past 12 months, Lord Boyle, chairman of the review body on top salaries, suggested yesterday. He told the Commons expenditure committee that the time has now come to implement the remainder of the review body's recommendations on top salaries. In his evidence to the committee, Lord Boyle pointed out that the review body's recommendations, made in 1974, had only been partially implemented. The Government had decided that civil servants with salaries above £13,000 should have their recommended increases spread over two years. Although the first stage was completed in January 1975, the second stage, year later was not paid because the £6 pay policy was in force. This meant that the head of the civil service, the permanent secretary to the Treasury, and the Cabinet secretary should have had their salaries increased from £20,175 to £23,000 from the beginning of 1976. Permanent secretaries should have had a £2,225 increase (to £21,000) and deputy secretaries a £1,000 rise (to £15,000). Lord Boyle "regretted" that his recommendations had not been implemented because they had been deemed necessary at the time to maintain top civil servants' morale and motivation. The problem of implementing a return to free collective bargaining in the civil service was also outlined in the committee report. Mr. Gordon Burnett, deputy secretary in the civil service department, said that a possible way of keeping future civil service pay rises within the cash limits system, whereby departments have to conform to strict budgetary controls, was by timing the pay research and awards before full costs were made. Mr. Burnett also revealed that the number of applicants to join the civil service had risen in the past year, "the quality is perceptively and markedly down". Mr. Vernon Morgan, the director of the Civil Service pay research, which provides statistical comparisons between pay levels in industry and the civil service, told the committee that the unit was at present valuing its research work in preparation for a return to salary negotiations when pay restraint was lifted.

Union veto of print technology plan feared

VOTING BEGINS today in the ballot of newspaper workers in Fleet Street and Manchester on the programme for action designed to facilitate the introduction of new industrial technology. There are strong indications that members of at least some of the unions involved will not support the plan. The largest three print unions—the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, the National Graphical Association and the National Society of Operative Printers, Gravers and Media Personnel—will all be conducting ballots this month. Members of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union have already thrown out the programme in the only binding vote to have taken place so far. The package, despite the fact that it would not enable members to vote on individual parts of the package, is still considered by some as a "voluntary redundancy" as new computer-aided technology replaces existing jobs. Since publication it has been criticised at Fleet Street meetings not only for its proposals to make arrangements, but for suggested new dispute procedures and joint house committees in each office to organise voluntary redundancy, de-casualisation and the implementation of new technology. If the programme for Action is rejected in this month's ballot it will destroy the possibility of a common approach to the reorganisation of the industry, leaving individual managements to attempt to reach their own agreements with unions at office level. Union leaders on the joint standing committee which produced the programme have warned that its rejection might threaten the continued viability of some national newspapers.

Redundancy A fourth, the National Union of Journalists, is still considering what form the ballot should take following criticisms that the straight-forward yes/no format originally proposed would not enable members to vote on individual parts of the package. The programme sets out a structure for voluntary redundancy as new computer-aided technology replaces existing jobs. Since publication it has been criticised at Fleet Street meetings not only for its proposals to make arrangements, but for suggested new dispute procedures and joint house committees in each office to organise voluntary redundancy, de-casualisation and the implementation of new technology. If the programme for Action is rejected in this month's ballot it will destroy the possibility of a common approach to the reorganisation of the industry, leaving individual managements to attempt to reach their own agreements with unions at office level. Union leaders on the joint standing committee which produced the programme have warned that its rejection might threaten the continued viability of some national newspapers.

9,000 workers idle at strike-hit Leyland

A SERIES of strikes at Leyland has made nearly 9,000 workers idle and disrupted production of 300,000 cars. By last night 2,100 workers had been laid off and much of the Mini output halted. Leyland is anxious to maintain full showroom stocks at a time when Ford is launching its new challenger to the Mini—the Fiesta. Leyland union leaders have put themselves in the forefront of the campaign for an end to wage restraint. Mr. Derek Robinson, chairman of the unofficial committee of British Leyland workers, has warned that a strike by 300 senior workers are raring to strike because of frustrations over differentials and pay anomalies. The Longbridge lay-off were caused by two separate strikes at the Castle Bromwich body plant, where more than 4,000 workers have been idle since the start of the year. Another 400 Leyland workers at Stockport were held out of work at the end of last night. Leyland is anxious to maintain full showroom stocks at a time when Ford is launching its new challenger to the Mini—the Fiesta. Leyland union leaders have put themselves in the forefront of the campaign for an end to wage restraint. Mr. Derek Robinson, chairman of the unofficial committee of British Leyland workers, has warned that a strike by 300 senior workers are raring to strike because of frustrations over differentials and pay anomalies. The Longbridge lay-off were caused by two separate strikes at the Castle Bromwich body plant, where more than 4,000 workers have been idle since the start of the year. Another 400 Leyland workers at Stockport were held out of work at the end of last night.

More young jobs forecast

MR. JOHN CASSELS, director of the Manpower Services Commission, said yesterday: "There are going to be many more school-leavers chasing jobs this summer than there are jobs for them. All the signs are that the going will be tougher this year even than last year." He told the National Youth Conference at Wembley, attended by Mr. Len Murray, TUC general secretary, and Sir Harold Wilson, that 45,000 school-leavers were still without jobs in the country. "A tremendous blot on a civilised country," he said. "There will be even greater need to provide for young people a constructive alternative to unemployment, a way into the world of work and so on, or it will be a disaster for the country." "It is a problem which Government has to face for some time now with confidence in the Government's ability to solve it. The position is further exacerbated by the fact that the port and General Workers' Union, which represents about half the workforce, has still declared its position, although it seems likely to follow the lead of the senior stewards representing Massey Ferguson men. Friday morning to discuss the attitude to the picket lines." The dispute, which started on December 20, has cost the company £2m. in lost production.

Massey strike split may grow

BY OUR MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

BY MAKING official the protracted dispute at the Massey Ferguson tractor plant in Coventry, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers may well exacerbate divisions within the workforce and raise an important test case under a new provision of the Employment Protection Act. The strike, over piecework rate, has the support of only 1,150 workers, with another 900 continuing to work and 2,250 laid off. Before February 1, the day the AUEW executive made the strike official, workers directly laid off as a result of the strike announced by their union were held ineligible for unemployment benefit. Under a clause of the Employment Protection Act which came into force on Tuesday, the automatic disqualification no longer applies. However, whether or not the 2,250 laid off will be able to continue to draw unemployment pay could provide a test case. The Department of Health and Social Security said last night that individual applications would be assessed by the independent insurance officers. "The onus is on the individual to demonstrate that he has no direct interest in the dispute and will not benefit personally from it." Similarly, the 1,000 workers still in employment could be themselves without benefit if they refused to cross the picket line. The position is further exacerbated by the fact that the port and General Workers' Union, which represents about half the workforce, has still declared its position, although it seems likely to follow the lead of the senior stewards representing Massey Ferguson men. Friday morning to discuss the attitude to the picket lines." The dispute, which started on December 20, has cost the company £2m. in lost production.

Protest over employment premium plan

MR. COLIN BAKER, chairman of the Northern Economic Planning Council, has written to Mr. Henry, the Chancellor, to protest about the Government's investment plans and has severely disrupted their budgeting.

Criticism of renewing pay policy grows

BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN the TUC and the Government over the further stages of wage restraint to begin in August—already denounced by leading Leyland shop stewards—was criticised yesterday by one of the contenders for the general secretaryship of the General Workers' Union. Criticism of the negotiations is also expected from a meeting of Ford shop stewards to be held in Coventry in April. At that meeting stewards from all 22 Ford plants in the U.K. will be discussing pay and, according to Mr. Sid Haraway, spokesman for the Dagenham stewards, the resolutions received so far are critical of pay policy. As reported in yesterday's Financial Times, a meeting of British Leyland workers at Longbridge probably in April, will be asked to support a major campaign of opposition to any extension of pay policy beyond the end of July, when the present £3.50 to £4 a week policy expires. Representing about 7,000 British Steel Corporation workers, Corby, Northants decided to stage a similar campaign. Last night Mr. John Cousins, an industrial relations adviser to the National Economic Development Office, continued his campaign by stepping up his verbal assault on the concept of pay restraint. Addressing a meeting of workers at Heathrow airport, Mr. Cousins stated his belief that any form of consultative pay policy with TGWU members would show an overwhelming demand for a return to free collective bargaining this year. Meanwhile, Mr. Bill Keegan, general secretary of the South Midlands and Allied Trades probably in April, will be asked to support a major campaign of opposition to any extension of pay policy beyond the end of July, when the present £3.50 to £4 a week policy expires. Representing about 7,000 British Steel Corporation workers, Corby, Northants decided to stage a similar campaign. Last night Mr. John Cousins, an industrial relations adviser to the National Economic Development Office, continued his campaign by stepping up his verbal assault on the concept of pay restraint. Addressing a meeting of workers at Heathrow airport, Mr. Cousins stated his belief that any form of consultative pay policy with TGWU members would show an overwhelming demand for a return to free collective bargaining this year.

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How employees can grow used to owning capital

BY GEORGE COPEMAN

IN FRANCE the word "participation" still means, among other things, "having shares in the business." In Britain we have bent the word to mean having seats on the Board for trade union representatives but no shares in the business for ordinary employees. The Billock Committee's terms of reference ignored the question of employee shareholding but an Employee Investment Bill, introduced by Mr. Julian Hodge, Conservative MP for Harwich, and is being sponsored by industrial MPs from all three main parties. It comes up for Second Reading to-day and its drafting was based on the needs of profit-linked share plans, such as the one recently introduced by Habitat Designs, the furniture retailers, which may well be the forerunner of many similar schemes by British companies.

U.S.-style

Effective share schemes need time to mature. Two years ago this month a letter from Somerset House announced that the Board of Inland Revenue had discussed "U.S.-style" deferred profit-sharing schemes—of the type which exists in about 197,000 American companies—and that it saw no tax objections to them in principle. Specifically, it agreed that money set aside for such schemes could be allowable as a credit for corporation tax, even though it would be invested in the company's shares on behalf of named employees. Also the Board was agreeable to deferment of the employee's income tax liability until the employee obtained "unfettered rights" to the shares, which are held until the employee, the holding period, might be three or five years. (Any dividends under a deferred scheme are held for the employee until his shares are released to him by the trust, and are then taxed as investment income.)

At that time Habitat wanted a general employee share scheme. The chairman, Mr. Trencor, felt strongly that everyone who worked in the

enterprise he had built should have a chance to become a shareholder. But he wanted all employees in on the same basis, not just those who happened to have spare cash to invest. The "U.S. style" scheme seemed just right for Habitat, which had the courage to be first in Britain to adopt it.

The Inland Revenue had specified that under a deferred scheme, an employee could be taxed either on an "earnings" basis or on a "receipts" basis. If he chooses the "earnings" basis, he would be assessed for tax at the time when shares were allocated to his name but he would not pay it until the shares were released to him. If, however, the shares went down in value, he could end up with a liability for tax which might well exceed the value of the shares released to him.

For this reason it seemed to be very important to choose the "receipts" basis. In this case he would pay tax only on the value of the shares at the time he received them. However, there was one snag. If a "receipts" basis of taxation were used, the trustees for the scheme would be regarded by the Revenue as "settlement trustees." In the case of "settlement trustees," there would be a capital gains liability on them at the time of releasing the shares—immediately before the income tax charge on the employee.

This would in effect mean double taxation on the employee's share entitlement. It was difficult to believe that the Revenue would actually want to double-tax employees, so with Habitat's agreement the Board of Inland Revenue was asked for a concessionary ruling to eliminate the capital gains tax liability on the trustees, and this was granted. So Habitat went ahead with their share scheme which was launched last July, and widely welcomed by employees and their union representatives.

The only problem with this type of scheme is that, unlike we in Britain have no specific tax concession for employee

shares when they come "out of the pipeline" at the end of a required holding period. In France and Germany, scheme shares are tax-free if held for five years. In Britain the Conservatives have been considering a similar plan. Also the Revenue has agreed in principle that anyone with shares released to him at the end of a holding period may defer tax until retirement if he has the proceeds of sale invested in a single premium to an approved supplementary pension fund. For the average employee, however, this is too long to wait. Shareholding may mean nothing to him unless, within a reasonable number of years, he can get his hands on some money.

This is where the Employee Investment Bill comes in. When Mr. Ridsdale drew second position in the ballot for private members' Bills, here was a golden opportunity to draw up a Bill which would, if passed, give some measure of tax relief for employees receiving shares. The Bill provides that, if employees hold shares for five years, they will then pay capital gains tax on place of income tax. For small disposals, below £1,000, this could mean no tax at all. The Bill has a limit of £1,000 on allocation of shares to any one employee and a share scheme must involve participation by "all or most" of the employees in the company. It cannot be for a select few.

Simplicity

What, in essence, is the effect of the Inland Revenue concessionary ruling described above and what would be the tax effect if the Ridsdale Bill were passed by Parliament? Let us assume that an employee was allocated £100 worth of shares and that over a period of five years these rise in value to £150. For simplicity we will ignore social service contributions, and dividends accumulated, and we will also assume income tax at the basic rate.

Before the Inland Revenue Ruling, if the Revenue had not made a concessionary ruling,

double taxation would have meant: £150 share value less capital gains tax at 30 per cent of the £50 rise in value—£150—£15=£135 less income tax at 35 per cent = £135—£47.25=£87.75 net after tax.

After the Ruling, Elimination of double taxation meant: £150 less income tax at 35 per cent = £150—£52.5=£97.5.

If the Ridsdale Bill becomes law.

(i) for a person with more than £1,000 share sales in the year, £150 less capital gains tax at 17½ per cent = £150—£26.25=£123.75.

(ii) for a person with less than £1,000 share sales in the year, £150 less zero assessment of CGT on a small transaction = £150.

Such a novel and tax-effective private member's Bill raises a number of questions.

If employees want shares, why don't they save up and buy them?

This question is prompted by the mythology of personal savings which is perpetuated in the National Income Blue Book. Year after year the book shows that something like one-third of all capital accumulation comes from "personal savings." Yet in the 10 years 1965-74 only 1.1 per cent of total capital accumulation was voluntary personal savings by individuals out of take-home pay. All the rest of personal savings was mainly channelled through compulsory pension schemes and repayment of house mortgages.

Deferred profit sharing schemes would not compete strongly with other forms of saving, because relatively they would add only a few per cent to voluntary personal savings.

Only 3.8 per cent of people of working age or above in Britain own shares—according to Professor E. Victor Morgan's 1975 survey. France and Germany had similarly low figures for shareholders until official steps were taken to promote employee capital accumulation. Now Germany is up to 7.6 per cent and France

9.2 per cent, while the U.S. with much longer experience has an estimated 20.3 per cent shareholders, of whom about one-third invest through employee share-owning schemes. Surely a tax concession for company employees is unfair to civil servants and to those who work in small businesses? It is all a matter of "horses for courses." Civil servants have better pensions than industry can ever provide. As for small businesses, people like working for them in spite of their lack of pensions. Government should encourage small businesses as a separate measure.

Liquidation

But surely employees should not have all their eggs in one basket? A share scheme with a five-year holding period does not involve this. A typical working life is 40 years. One-eighth of total capital accumulation would thus be temporarily invested in the employing company. As and when shares are released, employees can diversify their holding. If a company makes an employee redundant, or if he retires, he has the same entitlement to his allocated shares as any other shareholder. The same applies if the company goes into liquidation.

If employees really wanted shares, it would not be necessary to invent a "holding period."

Holding periods are not a new invention. For centuries people with property have been putting it in trust for their children. Also the western plains of the United States were settled under the Homestead Acts, by which a settler got free land at the frontier, but only on condition that he held it and worked it.

The holding period enables the company to have the use of the money until the shares are released. It also enables the employee to grow accustomed to having capital. For him it is a chrysalis stage. Furthermore a deferred profit sharing scheme is compatible with the pay code because the employee draws no immediate benefit.

Dr. Copeman is chairman of Cockman, Copeman and Partners, employee benefit consultants.

APPOINTMENTS

R. Miquel joins Board of Dawson International

Mr. Raymond C. Miquel has been appointed a non-executive director of DAWSON INTERNATIONAL from April 1. He is chairman and managing director of Arthur Bell and Sons.

Mr. S. M. Holladay has been appointed financial director of GEC-MARCONI ELECTRONICS.

Mr. J. A. Yanes has been elected to the Boards of ESSO EUROPE INC and ESSO AFRICA INC. He replaces Mr. A. P. Sala, who has resigned from both Boards.

Mr. J. J. Francis has been appointed deputy-chairman of the DOBSON PARK INDUSTRIES GROUP. He joined Gulflick in 1957 as works manager and subsequently became a director of that company, William Park and Co., and on the formation of Dobson Park Industries in 1969, Mr. C. H. Dehrens, a director of Reed Group, has been appointed managing director of the packaging division in succession to Mr. Malcolm C. Thomas, whose appointment as chairman and chief executive of the West Paper Manufacturers Division of REED INTERNATIONAL was also announced yesterday.

Mr. E. E. Hillan, formerly managing director, has become chairman and chief executive of Reed Corrugated Cases. Mr. A. R. Chalk has been made managing director of Spicers in succession to Mr. Behrens. Mr. J. J. Beno, previously managing director, is now chairman and chief executive of Reed Paper and Board (U.K.). Mr. E. Dourbier, who was resigning director, has been appointed chairman and chief executive of Spicer-Cowan.

Mr. W. C. Dale, formerly deputy chairman, has been appointed chairman and chief executive of Reed Transport. Mr. A. W. Western, formerly managing director, becomes chairman and chief executive of Reed Engineering and Development Services.

Both are responsible to Mr. C. H. Dehrens, who has been appointed deputy chairman of the paper division and is now responsible for the financial, economic planning, public relations and marketing.

Appointed to the Board of Reed Group are Mr. J. J. Egan, Mr. E. Hillan, Mr. J. C. M. Bank, Mr. A. van Kerk and Mr. C. E. Wainwright. Mr. Mavhank is chairman and chief executive of J. and J. Mavhank and Mr. van Kerk is president of the Management Board of Reed Corrugated Cases Nederland. BV, both companies being part of Reed Group.

Mr. M. Marshall Group has appointed Mr. J. G. Egan, and Mr. D. G. Scotchbrook, joint managing directors, and Mr. M. J. Pyle and Mr. M. J. Warren, assistant managing directors, of M. W. MARSHALL AND CO. Subsidiary appointments include:

Mr. M. J. C. Phillips, director; and Mr. M. Ince, Mr. P. D. E. Pereira, Mr. A. J. Clarke, Mr. R. P. M. Hananford, Mr. R. E. Holmes, Mr. T. P. Jones, Mr. P. N. Ward, Mr. R. A. Webb, managers; and Mr. P. Fallowfield-Cooper, Mr. B. R. Greenwood, Mr. P. Hemming, Mr. P. E. Herbert, Mr. K. J. Holmes, Mr. R. Mahoney, Mr. D. K. Smith, Mr. R. Yelland, assistant managers.

The Board of MATTHEW HALL MECHANICAL SERVICES SAUDI ARABIA, a newly formed member of the Matthew Hall Group, consists of Mr. A. Afeef, chairman, Mr. M. J. Kersey, managing director, Mr. W. F. Bond, Mr. E. E. Hillan, Mr. A. Khalil, Mr. K. Motalr, Mr. T. M. Scott and Mr. A. R. Yamaal.

Mr. James J. McCuskey has been appointed deputy managing director of TRW VALVES. He was previously with the truck and bus group of Leyland where he was operations director, Scottish operations.

Mr. Leo Russell, chairman and director-general of the Cement and Concrete Association, is to be succeeded as director-general by Dr. R. E. Rowe from April 1. Mr. Russell will continue as chairman of the C and CA council.

Mr. W. D. Dane has resigned as marketing director responsible for associate companies of HAMBROS LIFE ASSURANCE.

Mr. Norman G. O'Hara has been appointed managing director of KATREY SPECIAL PANELS in place of Mr. W. F. Parker, who has reached retirement age but remains on the Board until the end of March. Mr. O'Hara was previously with the truck and bus group of Leyland where he was operations director, Scottish operations.

Mr. Phillip Roberts has been appointed sales director of RECORD TOWER CRANES. He joined the company in 1968.

Mr. Gottfried Koesters has been appointed technical director of SIMON MACHINERY INC. Mr. Richard Littleton has become marketing and sales director.

Mr. Gunnar Dahlsten has been appointed group managing director of the SWEDISH MATCH GROUP. He will take over from Mr. Roif Dehn on June 1 but will remain a consultant for special assignments. Mr. Dahlsten was managing director of Moelblycke AB until 1975 when he was acquired by the Swedish Cellulose Group last year.

Lord Ponsooby of Shulbude, has been appointed president, GALLEON WORLD TRAVEL ASSOCIATION succeeding Sir Harry Crane.

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 9028 of 1977
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, 10, the Master of WALSLEY (PROPERTIES) LIMITED and in the Matter of the Companies Act, 1965.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 21st day of January 1977 presented to the said Court by MESSRS. DRY BALASE DIXON Partners of 23, Mansfield Road, Richmond, Surrey, a firm of Architects, Planners and Interior Decorators, who state that the Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London W.C.2., on the 21st day of February 1977, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person who so applies to the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Solicitors for the Petitioner:
B. H. WAINMAN & CO.,
London W.C.2. 4J.
RANKINE LIMITED who are
Solicitors for the Company.
Tel: 01-52 442.

No. 9029 of 1977
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, 10, the Master of BOUTLENG ENGINEERING LIMITED and in the Matter of the Companies Act, 1965.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 1st day of February 1977, presented to the said Court by the undersigned, who state that the Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London W.C.2., on the 7th day of March 1977, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person who so applies to the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

E. P. RUGG & CO.,
London W.C.2.
Tel: 01-52 442.

No. 9030 of 1977
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, 10, the Master of CITY STEAK HOUSES LIMITED and in the Matter of the Companies Act, 1965.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 1st day of February 1977, presented to the said Court by the undersigned, who state that the Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London W.C.2., on the 7th day of March 1977, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person who so applies to the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Solicitors for the Petitioner:
B. H. WAINMAN & CO.,
London W.C.2.
Tel: 01-52 442.

No. 9031 of 1977
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, 10, the Master of SNOWCOW LIMITED and in the Matter of the Companies Act, 1965.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 1st day of February 1977, presented to the said Court by the undersigned, who state that the Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London W.C.2., on the 7th day of March 1977, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person who so applies to the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Solicitors for the Petitioner:
B. H. WAINMAN & CO.,
London W.C.2.
Tel: 01-52 442.

No. 9032 of 1977
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, 10, the Master of TELLYCROFT LIMITED and in the Matter of the Companies Act, 1965.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 1st day of February 1977, presented to the said Court by the undersigned, who state that the Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London W.C.2., on the 7th day of March 1977, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person who so applies to the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Solicitors for the Petitioner:
B. H. WAINMAN & CO.,
London W.C.2.
Tel: 01-52 442.

No. 9033 of 1977
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, 10, the Master of BILMAR SECURITIES (UK) LIMITED and in the Matter of the Companies Act, 1965.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 1st day of February 1977, presented to the said Court by the undersigned, who state that the Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London W.C.2., on the 7th day of March 1977, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person who so applies to the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Solicitors for the Petitioner:
B. H. WAINMAN & CO.,
London W.C.2.
Tel: 01-52 442.

No. 9034 of 1977
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, 10, the Master of KARMA CLOTHING LIMITED and in the Matter of the Companies Act, 1965.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 1st day of February 1977, presented to the said Court by the undersigned, who state that the Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London W.C.2., on the 7th day of March 1977, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person who so applies to the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Solicitors for the Petitioner:
B. H. WAINMAN & CO.,
London W.C.2.
Tel: 01-52 442.

No. 9035 of 1977
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, 10, the Master of SANCREST PROPERTIES LIMITED and in the Matter of the Companies Act, 1965.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 1st day of February 1977, presented to the said Court by the undersigned, who state that the Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London W.C.2., on the 7th day of March 1977, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person who so applies to the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Solicitors for the Petitioner:
B. H. WAINMAN & CO.,
London W.C.2.
Tel: 01-52 442.

No. 9036 of 1977
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, 10, the Master of SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED and in the Matter of the Companies Act, 1965.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 1st day of February 1977, presented to the said Court by the undersigned, who state that the Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London W.C.2., on the 7th day of March 1977, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person who so applies to the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Solicitors for the Petitioner:
B. H. WAINMAN & CO.,
London W.C.2.
Tel: 01-52 442.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

OPERA & BALLET

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tonight, 7.30, The Tales of Hoffmann, 7.30, Der Rosenkavalier.
ADRIAN PHILLIPS
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ADRIAN PHILLIPS
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THEATRES

OURSE OF YEARS
Tonight, 7.30, The Tales of Hoffmann, 7.30, Der Rosenkavalier.
ADRIAN PHILLIPS
Tonight, 7.30, The Tales of Hoffmann, 7.30, Der Rosenkavalier.

THEATRES

QUEEN'S
Tonight, 7.30, The Tales of Hoffmann, 7.30, Der Rosenkavalier.
ADRIAN PHILLIPS
Tonight, 7.30, The Tales of Hoffmann, 7.30, Der Rosenkavalier.

CINEMAS

CASINO
Tonight, 7.30, The Tales of Hoffmann, 7.30, Der Rosenkavalier.
ADRIAN PHILLIPS
Tonight, 7.30, The Tales of Hoffmann, 7.30, Der Rosenkavalier.

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SENTRUST LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

INTERIM REPORT FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 1976

The unaudited consolidated results of the company for the half-year ended 31 December, 1976, are as follows:

	Half-year ended 31/12/76	Half-year ended 31/12/75	Year ended 30/6/76
Income from investments	2,338,000	2,704,000	5,712,000
Other income less expenses	(31,000)	(82,000)	(46,000)
Net income before tax and investment transactions	2,307,000	2,622,000	5,666,000
Net income after tax before investment transactions	2,309,000	2,615,000	5,602,000
Net surplus (deficit) on investment transactions less tax and provisions	(28,000)	1,945,000	2,357,000
Total surplus	2,281,000	4,560,000	7,959,000
Dividends	1,800,000	2,160,000	5,400,000
Earnings per ordinary share after tax, before investment transactions	12.7c	14.5c	31.1c
Dividends—per ordinary share	10.8c	12.0c	30.0c

Net income is not earned proportionately over the year as income from investments and certain expenses do not accrue evenly during the year.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS as at

	31/12/76	31/12/75	30/6/76
Capital employed	30,044,000	30,044,000	30,044,000
Share capital	11,794,000	11,267,000	11,314,000
Distributable reserves	41,838,000	41,801,000	41,858,000
Shareholders' Interest	500,000	500,000	500,000
Long Term Liabilities	42,338,000	41,801,000	41,858,000

Employment of capital

	31/12/76	31/12/75	30/6/76
Listed Investments	32,971,000	36,218,000	33,463,000
Listed (Market value)	(44,844,000)	(80,843,000)	(44,672,000)
Unlisted (Directors' valuation)	6,888,000	1,381,000	7,166,000
Land and Buildings and mineral rights	2,422,000	(3,502,000)	(1,863,200)
	2,422,000	2,422,000	2,422,0



Bill of Rights study backed by peers

BY IVOR OWEN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

A BILL of Rights with entrenched clauses and, possibly, the introduction of a written constitution are among fundamental issues expected to be examined by a high-powered committee of the House of Lords which is to be set up as a result of an initiative by Lord Hailsham, former Lord Chancellor.

In the House of Lords last night, peers agreed, without a division, to his suggestion that the Bill of Rights, sponsored by Lord Wade (L.), introduced as a Private Member's measure and given an unopposed second reading, should be referred to a special Select Committee instead of being allowed to follow the normal legislative course.

The central question on which the Select Committee will report is whether a Bill of Rights is desirable and, if so, what form it should take.

Lord Hailsham again spoke of the dangers posed by "an elected dictatorship" in the House of Commons and predicted that if Lord Wade's Bill, which seeks to incorporate in the domestic law of the U.K. the European Convention on Human Rights, were passed by the Lords in the normal way, it would only "run into the sand."

But, he suggested, more fruitful results might follow from a fundamental examination of the issues by a powerful committee of peers.

With many of his fellow Tory peers nodding agreement, Lord Hailsham said that the Government had circumvented the rule in the Commons governing the introduction of a Bill of Rights by introducing it as a Private Member's measure and giving it an unopposed second reading, should be referred to a special Select Committee instead of being allowed to follow the normal legislative course.

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Heffer in angry Chile clash

IN A FIERCE Commons row over the admission of Chilean refugees to Britain yesterday, a Labour MP told Mr. Nicholas Winterton (C, Macclesfield): "I'll thump you one day."

The remark was used by Mr. Eric Heffer (Lab., Walton) who complained to the Speaker (Mr. George Thomas) that whenever the question of Chile was discussed "we got jeers and cat-calls from the Tory benches." It indicated that they were "totally fascist in their attitude," he declared.

As tempers rose, with shouting from all sides of the House, the Speaker called for order, and Mr. Heffer, pointing across the chamber to Mr. Winterton, said: "I'll thump you one day."

This was a democratic institution, Mr. Heffer protested. He was concerned, even if the Tories were not, with democracy in every part of the world—in Russia and in Chile.

Earlier, Mr. Martin Flannery (Lab. Hillingborough) had claimed that the Chilean community in Britain was demoralised about the slowness with which visas were issued.

The chief adjudicator, and, in particular, the Glasgow adjudicator, had called members of the Socialist Party of Chile "communist agitators," he said, amid jeers from Tories. They had used "deep political bias as a reason for not accepting honest political prisoners from fascist Chile," Mr. Flannery claimed.

Dr. Shirley Sammettskill, Home Office Under Secretary, said that up to January 31, 1,873 people were known to have arrived in this country from Chile.

The Home Secretary (Mr. Reel) was aware of concern about delay in entry, and would be examining the procedure. The adjudicators were appointed by the Home Secretary but they were not answerable to him on how they carried out their duties.

Callaghan sent 'frightening facts about union leaders'

BY RUPERT CORNWELL, LOBBY STAFF

IN A STEEP which can only embarrass and annoy the Government, the Social Democratic Alliance yesterday sent the Prime Minister a document purporting to prove the "totalitarian sympathies" of many of Britain's trade union leaders.

The Alliance, which calls itself "Labour's moderate grass roots organisation" recently earned brief fame by naming more than 30 Labour MPs it accused of holding anti-democratic views.

The evidence for its latest Eastern Europe extracts from speeches, and links said to have been established between union leaders and internal Communist organisations.

The document mentions 16 of the 39 members of the TUC General Council, some of whom, it states, have openly praised the Soviet system. "Their unions represent the overwhelming majority of voting strength at the TUC and at the Labour Party conference," the Alliance argues.

Most irritating for Mr. Callaghan will be the emphasis laid on Mr. Jack Jones, head of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and a prime architect of the social contract. "The facts in our document," the Alliance claims, "leads us irresistibly to the conclusion that Mr. Jones is a careful, intelligent and dedicated opponent of our Western Parliamentary democracy."

The document goes on implicitly to attack Sir Harold Wilson for his "years of negligent political leadership."

Although the document will be interpreted as the latest broadside in the battle between Labour's Left and Right wings, it also has virtually no real supporters among moderate MPs of the party, with the exception of the former Overseas Development Minister, Mr. Reg Prentice, who resigned from the Government in December, criticising it for its subservience to the unions.

Moreover, Mr. Callaghan will find not only the contents but the timing of the assault objectionable. It was pressure from the TUC that prompted the most recent victory for Labour Right-wingers—the decision of the National Executive Committee last month to reopen the celebrated "Underhill" file on alleged extremist infiltration of the party.

Mr. Ray Buckton of ASLEF, one of the union leaders named in the document, said yesterday his initial reaction was "to tear it up and put it in the waste paper basket." It should be treated with contempt, as the work of troublemakers.

It also has virtually no real supporters among moderate MPs of the party, with the exception of the former Overseas Development Minister, Mr. Reg Prentice, who resigned from the Government in December, criticising it for its subservience to the unions.

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It also has virtually no real supporters among moderate MPs of the party, with the exception of the former Overseas Development Minister, Mr. Reg Prentice, who resigned from the Government in December, criticising it for its subservience to the unions.

Moreover, Mr. Callaghan will find not only the contents but the timing of the assault objectionable. It was pressure from the TUC that prompted the most recent victory for Labour Right-wingers—the decision of the National Executive Committee last month to reopen the celebrated "Underhill" file on alleged extremist infiltration of the party.

Mr. Ray Buckton of ASLEF, one of the union leaders named in the document, said yesterday his initial reaction was "to tear it up and put it in the waste paper basket." It should be treated with contempt, as the work of troublemakers.

Crosland response to 'abduction' fiercely attacked by Tories

BY JOHN HUNT, PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

NEW MOVES by the British Government over the alleged abduction of 384 schoolchildren from Rhodesia into Botswana failed to appease the anger of Tory MPs in the Commons last night.

Mr. John Davies, shadow Foreign Secretary, condemned the Government's latest response as "inadequate and frigid" and said it was in keeping with the "serene and Olympian detachment" that Mr. Anthony Crosland, Foreign Secretary, had shown to the Rhodesian crisis throughout.

He claimed that the Government's totally inadequate response to the incident and the issues that flowed from it could lead to a chain of events "almost limitless in their horror and danger."

The House was holding an emergency debate on the case of the schoolchildren who were taken from a mission school in Rhodesia, near the border with Botswana at the weekend. The debate was initiated by Mr. Ronald Bell (C, Beaconsfield) who moved a vote of censure on the Foreign Secretary for his handling of the affair.

Mr. Edward Rowlands, Minister of State of the Foreign Office, answering in the absence of Mr. Crosland during the early part of the debate, said that earlier in the day, our representative in Gaborone had spoken to the International Red Cross.

As a result, Red Cross representative would go to Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, to-day. The Government had asked our High Commissioner in Gaborone to keep in touch with the Red Cross and send a member of the staff to visit the children with the Red Cross representatives.

Mr. Rowlands, who spoke against a continual barrage of angry Opposition interruptions, said that the Botswana authorities maintained that a large number of the children had been interviewed and all said that they had left willingly in order to escape the Rhodesian security forces.

Much to the disgust of the Tories, Mr. Rowlands took a similar line to that of Mr. Crosland the previous day. He emphasised that Britain first had to decide whether the Rhodesian or the Botswana version of the incident was the true one.

Mr. Rowlands also told the House that he had instructed our High Commissioner to make representations to the Botswana Government that the children should not be moved outside Botswana until the full facts of the case were established by an independent body.

This was in response to the assertion by Mr. Bell that Mr. Joshua Nkomo, the African nationalist leader, was systematically abducting villagers from Rhodesia to build up his own private army which would be prepared to fight the other nationalist factions after independence.

According to Mr. Bell, these enforced recruits were later moved out of Botswana into Zambia and then on to Tanzania. There they were indoctrinated and a few of them were even sent to Russia.

During the debate, Mr. Rowlands's repeated refusal to condemn those responsible for the incident further angered the Opposition. He said that the involvement of schoolchildren in the conflict but, at the moment, it was in no position to determine the true facts of the case, Mr. Davies reminded the House that on the previous day Mr. Crosland had said that the Government would not make an approach to anybody until the true facts were known. Obviously he thought the latest action had only been taken after Mr. Crosland knew he had to face an emergency debate. It seemed intolerable that the Foreign Secretary had to be provoked into taking any of this degree of action.

According to Mr. Davies, Mr. Crosland seemed to be indifferent to the issues involved. But he suggested that the Foreign Secretary might think differently if one of the children involved had been his own.

He thought that Mr. Rowlands should have considered going on to Botswana in person to find out the facts of the case. The Minister's speech and the motion he had announced were totally unconvincing. It was "irrational and unbelievable" that the children had left of their own free will.

Mr. Davies argued that there seemed to be a growing acceptance by Britain of the escalation of acts of violence in southern Africa merely because we want to see a settlement in the area.



MR. JOHN DAVIES "Consequences almost limitless"

Bullock offers chance for better industrial relations, says Prior

BY PHILIP RAWSTORNE

DESPITE CONSERVATIVE opposition to the Bullock Committee's majority proposals, Mr. James Prior, the party's employment spokesman, said last night that the report offered a valuable opportunity for the improvement of industrial relations that should not be missed.

Legislation on the basis of the majority report would "make our Boardrooms the new frontiers of the corporate State" and would be vigorously resisted, he said at Sutton Coldfield. But that did not mean that nothing should be done in the field of industrial democracy.

Mr. Prior said that there was a basis of widespread agreement on which the Government could seek general consent for action. There was no argument about the problems that needed to be tackled. "There is a tendency in modern industry both for decisions which fundamentally affect the employees — yet demand rapid compliance — to move upwards to levels remote from them and for the area of responsibility and variety open to the individual employee within his task to be limited."

"People also have higher aspirations than in the past and our Boardrooms are not doing their work in industry cannot afford to meet this through ever-increasing take-home pay."

Decision making structures in industry would have to be adapted to meet these problems, Mr. Prior said there should be no disagreement either about the benefits that should be sought from such changes. He quoted with approval the words of Mr. Edmund Dell — Secretary of Trade: "We must ensure that whatever proposals the Government brings forward are compatible with improved industrial relations, the efficient management of companies and with an increasing level of investment of risk capital."

Mr. Prior added: "If we can all agree that those are the problems we are trying to deal with and that those are the benefits we are seeking to derive, we may, against all odds, gain something of immense benefit from the publication of the Bullock report."

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Whitelaw seeks Hughes escape inquiry

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

MR. MERLYN REES, Home Secretary, yesterday refused to be drawn on any decision about a public inquiry into the escape and subsequent mass murders by William Hughes in Derbyshire until all the relevant reports he has commissioned have been concluded.

This was despite a warning from Mr. William Whitelaw, shadow Home Secretary, that he would eventually have to concede and order an independent public inquiry.

Mr. Rees was also urged by Mr. Phillip Whitehead (Lab., Derby N.), not to close his mind to a public inquiry "which many believe is necessary."

But the Home Secretary refused to go any further than a statement that he had already made: "Until I receive the report of the inquiry currently being conducted by the Chief Inspector of the Prison Service and the more detailed report of the Chief Constable of Derbyshire."

Mr. Whitelaw said that everything he had been told about the incident led him to conclude that he was right to seek the inquiry. He hoped that Mr. Rees would "realise that in the end, what is going to happen" and agree as soon as possible.

Later, Mr. Edward Gardner (C, South Fylde) demanded to know why information that Hughes was a violent and dangerous man which had been given to Derbyshire police had not been passed on to Leicester Prison.

Mr. Gardner claimed the information was given to Derbyshire police by a superintendent at Blackpool. He asked: "Why was information of this kind not known to the prison officers responsible for the safe custody of 'Until I receive the report of the inquiry currently being conducted by the Chief Inspector of the Prison Service and the more detailed report of the Chief Constable of Derbyshire'?"

Mr. Brynmor John, Minister of State, Home Office, said that if he could answer that question, there would be no point in awaiting the outcome of the inquiries.

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NCB expects 10,000 to choose early retirement

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

THE National Coal Board expects that about 10,000 men will volunteer for early retirement in the first year of the miners' new retirement scheme.

The figure was given to the Commons last night by Mr. Stanley Orme, Minister for Social Security in answer to Mr. Nigel Lawson (C, Blaby).

Mr. Lawson had asked for the Government's estimate of the extra annual cost in unemployment benefit stemming from the implementation of the miners' early retirement proposal.

Mr. Orme replied: "I am informed that the National Coal Board expect that up to about 10,000 men will volunteer for early retirement in the first year when this becomes possible, and that they expect to have to recruit an approximately similar number of men to replace them."

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"On that basis, it seems unlikely that there will be significant additional expenditure on unemployment benefit."

Shore quizzed on Rent Acts

THE GOVERNMENT has no intention of legislating for any changes in the Rent Acts this session, or possibly even next session, Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary for the Environment said last night.

Mr. Shore said that he expected "long and substantial" consultations to follow the publication of his Department's "Green Paper" on the issue earlier this week.

He added that there would be "no give" on the question of security of tenure provided by the Acts.

Schools row plea

MRS. SHIRLEY WILLIAMS, Secretary of State for Education, has been asked to resolve a dispute in Staffordshire over plans to introduce comprehensive education to Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Mr. Wilson said the proposals for the schools are fair and reasonable. "The objection will spoil the nature of the comprehensive system proposed. I would like to see them completely involved in the comprehensive pattern."

The error was in the local authority's failure to have more say in the running of the two endowed schools, he said.

VAT cost

MR. ROBERT SHELDON, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said yesterday that it cost about £50m. to collect VAT during the financial year 1976-77.

Written Answers

HOUSING
Mr. Joseph Dean (Lab., Leeds West). When is the next review of the house price list of properties covered by the option mortgage guarantee scheme?
Mr. Reginald Preest, Minister for Housing, has decided, following consultation with the British Insurance Association and the Building Societies Association, to raise the maximum house valuation for a Option Mortgage Guarantee Scheme from £12,000 to £15,000. Also, it has been agreed that if insurance premium rate for participants in the scheme is reduced by 4 per cent.

TRANSPORT
Mr. Roger Woate (Con, Faversham). What research has been conducted into the production of quieter heavy goods vehicles?
Mr. William Rodgers, Secretary of State, is reviewing the Government-sponsored Quiet Heavy Goods Vehicle project was completed at the end of last year. A noise level of 82dB(A) was achieved for a 32/38 articulated vehicle. This vehicle has now been returned to manufacturers, who are assessing the cost of improvements. It appears from the results of the research that a noise level of 80dB(A)—about a level of present motor-cars—technically feasible, but the cost is still to be determined.

ENERGY
Mr. Gerald Howells (Lab, Cardiff). Will the Secretary of State list the areas of Wales which are being considered for nuclear waste?
Mr. Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State. The U.K. Atomic Energy Authority is planning research programme to investigate the suitability of certain geological strata in Wales, England and Scotland for the disposal of radioactive waste. The formations to be considered include some mudstone and rock in the Cheshire and Welsh border area. Proposals actually to use geological strata for disposal would only be made after the fullest consideration of all the safety and environmental issues including wide consultations and on the basis of a decision that it would be safe to do so.

TREASURY
Mr. Howell (Con, North Norfolk). What would be the cost to the Exchequer in the current financial year, tax rates were reduced by 2 per cent. for each child supported by the individual taxpayer?
Mr. Robert Sheldon, Financial Secretary, to reduce income tax liability by 24 per cent. for a dependent child would cost about £900m. for 1976-77.

Mr. R. Howell (What will be the cost of the proposed phasing-out of child tax allowances on the weekly rates tax refunds payable to families in receipt of short term social security benefits?
Mr. R. Sheldon. The effect of reducing child tax allowances £300 will be to reduce the net value of tax refunds by £202.

Republic National Bank of New York

Consolidated Statement of Condition

DECEMBER 31

ASSETS	1976	1975
Cash and due from banks	\$ 76,544,442	\$ 82,714,022
Interest bearing deposits with banks	386,471,532	291,699,645
Precious metals	30,337,129	18,059,251
Investment securities:		
U.S. Government obligations	90,672,579	38,415,418
Obligations of U.S. Government agencies	47,345,545	56,729,473
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	102,293,969	119,077,440
Other	115,981,459	31,469,555
Total investment securities	356,293,552	245,691,886
Federal funds sold	70,000,000	102,000,000
Loans, net of unearned income	854,094,837	625,111,490
Less allowance for possible loan losses	(13,298,147)	(10,269,944)
	840,796,690	614,841,546
Customers' liability under acceptances	91,645,775	79,286,308
Bank premises and equipment	13,587,471	13,398,651
Accrued interest receivable	37,148,614	24,650,727
Other assets	42,268,575	43,199,779
Total assets	\$1,945,104,580	\$1,515,741,815
LIABILITIES		
Deposits	\$1,578,623,900	\$1,215,786,047
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreement to repurchase	12,000,000	30,300,000
Other liabilities for borrowed money	4,025,047	4,025,106
Acceptances outstanding	92,262,156	81,264,297
Accrued interest payable	63,997,612	45,264,806
Other liabilities	19,277,264	12,908,492
6 1/4% - 8% Notes	808,000	808,000
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Common stock	25,000,000	21,482,080
Surplus	78,032,591	44,867,511
Surplus representing convertible notes obligation assumed by parent corporation	12,604,000	12,787,000
Undivided profits	59,975,010	46,248,476
Total stockholders' equity	175,611,601	125,385,067
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$1,945,104,580	\$1,515,741,815
Letters of credit outstanding	\$ 90,648,291	\$ 37,957,613

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The Management Page

EDITED BY JOHN ELLIOTT

JOB RELEASE SCHEME

Slow initial response to early retirement

BY NICHOLAS LESLIE

THE JOB release scheme introduced by the Government last month has so far met with only limited response from employees and managements in industry.

Designed as one of a number of measures to help alleviate the unemployment situation, the scheme allows people in specified areas of the country to retire early. But while these employees are offered a tax-free weekly allowance as an incentive to make way for somebody currently without a job, company managements are offered no matching benefit—indeed, some feel they are forced into a situation of resolving a succession or replacement problem earlier than need be the case.

Job release came into operation on January 8, but people wishing to take advantage of it had been able to make application to do so since last November. By January 28, 5,178 applications had been approved, and of these 75.5 per cent represented people already unemployed. This means that only a minority of applicants retiring are actually making jobs available.

It may, however, be too harsh to judge the scheme by the figures so far, simply because the Department of Employment has put greater emphasis on publicising the scheme within employment exchanges and job centres than within companies.

Allowance

The job release scheme operates only in development areas. It offers both men and women the chance to retire a year earlier than usual, provided they are within one year of being 65 and 60 respectively in the six-month period ending on June 30. People so doing receive a £23 a week tax free allowance from the Government up to retirement but must undertake not to work at any other job. They may not apply for unemployment or sickness benefit while receiving the weekly allowance. However, supplementary benefits may be applied for if needed.

Early retirement has to be agreed by the worker with his employer, which in turn must already (though it has not

statutory commitment) to recruit someone from the unemployment register into a full-time job. This need not necessarily be the same job as had been vacant.

The same restrictions apply to unemployed men and women on the unemployment register who may also apply for the £23 a week allowance if they are within one year of retirement age.

Some initial reactions to the announcement of the scheme last year were hostile. It was said that the allowance was too low to attract any but the lowest paid and that many people close

replaced. Those retiring were mainly on an average wage of £34 per 40-hour week (£60 with overtime). A total of 160 Rowntree-Mackintosh employees are eligible for early retirement in the U.K.

In contrast, there has been very limited response at Swan Hunter, the Wallsend shipbuilders, which employs around 14,000 people, of whom about 200 are eligible under the job release scheme. Only two have retired so far, one being a telephone exchange supervisor and the other a general clerk. Another, a production engineer, is due to retire on April 7.

APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY REGION			
	Unemployed	Employed	Total
South-West	241	5	276
West Midlands (Oswestry)	20	0	20
East Midlands (North Midlands North Lincs.)	63	20	83
York & Humberside	763	306	1,069
North-West	1,352	525	1,877
Northern	476	155	631
Wales	392	70	462
Scotland	603	157	760
TOTAL	3,910	1,268	5,178
Percentage	75.5	24.5	100

to retirement age did not want to retire anyway. Also, there was some concern that inter-union tensions could be created because replacements do not necessarily have to fill the job made vacant by a retirement.

On the other hand, the views of a handful of companies which are now prepared to discuss their experiences of the scheme—many others, it appears, do want to make any public statement about job release—do not point to hostility, but rather to feelings among both employees and management ranging from disinterest to a small measure of support.

One large company to implement the scheme is York-based Rowntree Mackintosh, which considers it to be "acceptable as it stands." The company has complied with it because some of its employees have been asking for early release. So far, 32 inquiries have been received, mainly from production workers and six—almost all of them from the Newcastle plant—have already retired and been

According to the company's welfare and recruitment officer, Mr. Spokes, the scheme was made known to employees by putting leaflets on notice boards.

The few that have shown any interest have mainly been at the bottom end of the company's pay scale.

In contrast, only one of five eligible workers at Josbua Schofield and Sons, a small firm of dyers at Stockport, has refused the opportunity to retire early.

Three textile process workers have already gone and have been replaced at the bottom of the ladder by workers moving up from other grades, while another on the clerical staff is about to go. The worker who refused just did not want to retire.

Much less pay

While this is a high percentage of retirements compared with other companies, it should be remembered that their pay of about £45 gross per 40-hour week is much less than in many other companies. Their net pay would therefore bring them much closer to £23 tax free a week.

Another factor which works against the scheme is that an employee's occupational pension scheme can be affected. The job release scheme must, on present form, therefore rank as one of the least successful of the measures which the Government has devised to contain the unemployment situation, even though the DE does not itself appear discouraged by the statistics so far.

The DE is planning a major effort to increase publicity of the scheme among companies in order to generate a greater awareness of it. First, Mr. Albert Booth, Secretary for Employment, is considering making a personal appeal to leading industrialists throughout the U.K. to seek their help. There are also plans for a programme of television commercials in assisted areas and advertisements in management journals and newspapers some time in March.

Whether this will be enough to create the 60,000 jobs that was mentioned as the target last September remains to be seen, but it may help to redress the current imbalance between the employed and the unemployed who are now retiring early.

Tony France looks at one of the significant developments in machine tools

Automation that replaces skill

A MAJOR misconception among many managements in the past has been the view that significant advances in technology can provide simple solutions to many of their problems. One such technological breakthrough was the numerically-controlled machine tool, a device which provides a means of cutting metal to a given shape automatically rather than relying on the skill of the machine operator. The result of misunderstandings about the capabilities of early numerically-controlled machines was that expensive pieces of capital equipment became under-employed or even abandoned.

It also led to a number of engineer-dominated machine tool manufacturers coming unstuck through introducing technology which was too far in advance of market demand. Managements tended to dismiss the recommendations of their production engineers by shrugging off requests for numerically-controlled machine tools with terse remarks such as "much too expensive, and much too complicated."

Sufficient potential

This was the situation some years ago, but one company, the 600 Group, decided there was sufficient potential to justify investment in developing numerically-controlled machines at prices generally well below the £50,000 mark.

The group's philosophy is that numerically-controlled machine tools will eventually dominate the production machine shops of the future. To-day's operator does not want to wind handles, machine tool company could cope with increased demand for numerically-controlled machines. Production can be hal-

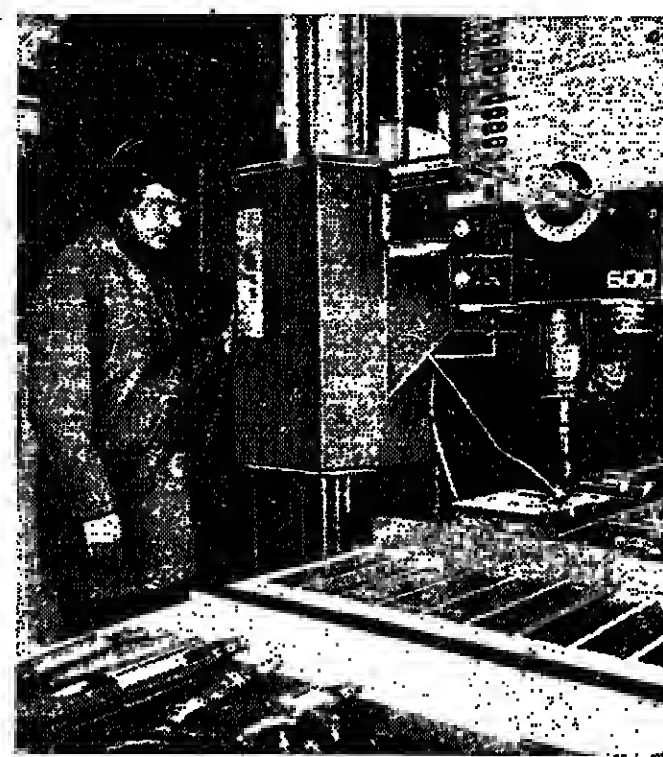
controlled machines could provide the answer.

Lathes from Hydro, one of the group's machine tool divisions, just became available to industry about six years ago. The development was not restricted to big companies with long production runs—and users found that all the advantages claimed for numerical control can be applied with equal facility to long runs and to small batches of varied components, down to special single items.

It has been estimated that 75 per cent of all machining production is made of less than 50 items. Engineering Industry Training Board figures indicate that there are about 100,000 companies using machine tools in the U.K. The market potential for numerically-controlled machines is therefore substantial, and represents an important proportion of manufacturing industry.

Metalworking companies in the U.S. say that unless a subcontractor, or jobbing machinist has numerically-controlled machines, they are on the way out—their machining costs cannot be competitive.

The 600 Group feels that sooner or later labour rates in the U.K. will start to equal those of Europe and North America, and that this country must have some really capital intensive. This end of the group's machine tool division is planning for a steady evolution towards numerical control. Its Colchester lathe company is probably the largest producer of manually operated centre lathes in Europe, and the division is confident that Hydro and Richmond (the group's other machine tool company) could cope with increased demand for numerically-controlled machines. Production can be hal-



With this machine, milling and drilling can be carried out to a computer-controlled program, eliminating time-wasting setting.

all that has been done in the office which prepared the control tape. After the initial setting up, no further setting between components is required. Orders worth over £5m. were taken at MACH 76.

Most progressive production engineers are aware of the economies in labour and machine time that can be achieved by installing numerically-controlled machine tools. The problem, at least in British industry, seems to be to convince managements that the comparatively high capital investment required will produce an adequate return.

An economic middle course

Figures are available that should prove that there is an economic middle course. Numerically-controlled machine utilisation time is generally about 85 per cent, which is at least twice as good as for most manually-operated machines. Production increases range from 25 to 95 per cent, depending on the application, while shop floor labour requirements can drop from four skilled machinists to one.

Stock turnover times can rise from the average U.K. industry figure of twice a year, to as high as 12 times a year. This is because with numerically-controlled machines it becomes economic to produce stock components in small batches with short forward requirement dates.

Some countries, such as Czechoslovakia, appreciate the advantages of numerically-controlled machine tools more fully and they are able to raise production levels—and cut costs—out of all proportion to the numbers of skilled workers.

Contoured parts, especially those to close tolerances require highly skilled machinists to spend a lot of time on them—both the time and skill required can be substantially reduced with numerical control. In the multi-operation category, numerical control cuts the metalworking to a one-machine job, reduces handling, machine time, and the skill required, and often produces a better quality component with fewer rejects.

Richmond deals with large cubic components and allows expensive and time wasting drilling jig production and marking-out are eliminated—

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Retention of managers a major priority

MANY of Britain's major companies aim to give greater priority this year to limiting the loss of their managers to other employers than to increasing exports and overseas earnings.

This is one of the conclusions reached in a study carried out among some of Britain's leading industrial and commercial companies to assess what they consider their priorities to be in 1977 so far as the management of their managerial resources was concerned.

The study asked companies to say what recommendations they were receiving from personnel directors, or people of similar status, about their preoccupations. These were broken down into three sections: first, to ascertain aims for management resources, such as the organisational structure, manning levels

and type of job; second, how management should be developed; and third, how managements should relate internally and externally with other organisations, such as unions.

The study was carried out by the management consultants, Hay-MSI, who say that it indicates the direction of company thinking, rather than being a hard and fast pointer to what companies have planned for management.

Companies showed themselves to be inward-looking, concentrating on assessing the role, re-

sponsibilities and accountability of managers, and on their abilities for promotion, rather than on their role in generating business growth at home and overseas.

While 59 per cent of companies put improvement of quality of intake to management jobs as a higher priority this year than last, 40 per cent saw it as a similar priority. But only 27 per cent thought management should be geared up more for business growth—with 44 per cent seeing it as a similar priority. Just 24 per cent felt

that a higher priority this year should be to accentuate management effort towards exporting and other overseas business, with 31 per cent seeing it as a similar priority.

Just over 60 per cent felt more emphasis should be given to manpower planning and almost a half of the respondents felt greater priority should be given to "limiting the loss of able people to other organisations."

Sixty per cent of companies thought they should concentrate more on assessing the perform-

ance and potential of an individual manager and just over half contemplated putting greater emphasis on improving job training methods for individuals who had just been promoted or transferred.

Almost three-quarters of companies felt higher priority should be given this year to examining the likely impact of developments in employee participation on managers' accountability and what they would perceive as their role.

Nicholas Leslie

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Post-Bullock headaches for Whitehall and town hall

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, Management Editor

The Bank digs in on MLR

THE BANK of England's decision yesterday to take its minimum lending rate under its own direct control for the time being can be read both as a measure and as a technical move to restrain interest rates. Only the events of the next week or two will show whether it is any more effective than the £1.25bn. long tap which ran out so quickly last week: but at least it can be said that it is a great deal less expensive to the taxpayers of the future. What remains rather puzzling is its motivation.

Firm statement The official account is not altogether convincing. The authorities, from the Prime Minister downwards, have repeatedly said that they expect interest rates to fall gently during the next few months, and more rapidly once a further stage of incomes restraint is in place, and an improvement in the balance of payments established; but it is not clear why this forecast, which in any case seemed to overlook the tendency of markets to adjust rapidly to their expectations of the long term future, should have been transformed into a firm statement of intervention policy.

The Bank, which first came unstuck with its top stock policy, and last week deployed the one-point drop in minimum lending rate—a rare example of a central bank proclaiming the fact that it has lost control of events—has now made its third and firmest gesture. It would be easy to draw satirical parallels with King Canute.

It is possible, of course, that this gesture may prove much more effective than the earlier attempts. The momentum of the £511 in rates was almost certainly slowing down before the Bank moved, and the rise in U.S. bond rates is beginning to exert a sobering influence, though the gap remains much larger than could be sustained for long between two relatively stable currencies. If the foreign inflow is now checked, the markets rather suggested yesterday, the new MLR will exert some pressure on the discount houses, and even if they

WHILE the preliminary skirmishes were in progress during the past week over the impact of the Bullock Report on industrial democracy in the private sector, civil servants and union leaders have been turning their minds to its effect on the public sector where the Government is pledged to introduce a measure of industrial democracy.

Sensing the bitter battle and parliamentary uncertainties ahead over private sector legislation, some union leaders have started to become interested in pushing ahead with voluntary experiments in nationalised industries such as the one now being finalised in the Post Office. They would also probably not be averse to the interest being shown by some Ministers, such as Mr. Albert Booth, Employment Secretary, in the possibilities for voluntary negotiations in the private sector.

Union interest in early experiments, especially in the nationalised industries, stems partly from the problems that the Government would face in getting any Bullock-style Bill through Parliament with its present small majority. If, as the Prime Minister is reported to have hinted earlier this week, there were to be a general election in the spring of next year, it is almost certain that the Bill would not have become law before Parliament was dissolved. The issue of industrial democracy—presented perhaps as a broad-based workers' right to have a say in management—would then become a key election issue and it would be useful for Labour politicians and the TUC to have some practical examples of worker directors such as in the Post Office to point to.

Likely hunting ground

Nationalised industries (and maybe one or two experiments in local government) would be a likely hunting ground for such schemes. They would have the added attraction for the TUC that there is less union opposition to the worker director concept in the public sector than in private industry. One or two unions might even be pleased to use nationalised industry experience as a means of levering themselves off some of their anti-Bullock hooks. This is not to suggest that a wholesale conversion of all TUC unions to Bullock-style ideas is likely. Indeed there are some areas where TUC leaders do not expect worker directors to appear for a long time: for instance, the construction industry, where the unions would rather concentrate first on decasualisation of employment.

which would be diluted if there were a separate worker director accountability to the employees. Finally there is the need to guard the public interest in a number of situations.

At present it seems unlikely that, outside the nationalised industries, anything very radical will emerge from all the inquiries. Civil servants are even to be heard deploying practical arguments in identical terminology to that used against Bullock in the private sector with complaints about the impact of industrial democracy on managerial efficiency, about the high costs of delays in decision making, and about the role of unions being broadly limited to employment issues. It has even been mischievously suggested that a concentrated civil service campaign to persuade Ministers of the worst horrors that indus-



Sir William Ryland (left) Chairman of the Post Office which is now arranging for worker directors on the Board and Mr. Alan Lord, Second Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, who will advise Minister about the position of the nationalised industries after Bullock.

elective principle. This principle, in the case of the nationalised industries, primarily hinges around a Minister's responsibility to Parliament for the industries which his Department sponsors. Thus, there seems to be general agreement in the Government that the Minister should have power over certain key issues—such as the way in which large sums of public money are spent, as well as guarding the national interest. This means he needs a power to control, for example, investment decisions involving Government finance and decisions affecting international obligations—say, on the functioning of the British National Oil Corporation's North Sea interests. Such a power could be exercised by ensuring the Government controlled a sizeable majority of a Board's seats.

The Post Office is by far the most advanced nationalised industry in this area and, providing special legislation is passed through Parliament allowing it to expand the size of its Board from 13 to 17 members, it will be a pacemaker in advance of Bullock developments. It has, however, taken three years for the Post Office and its unions to reach this point from the time Board representation was first considered—which illustrates how drawn out implementation of Bullock proposals can be.

There are no other nationalised industries near to drawing up a scheme although current TUC initiatives with its own nationalised industries committee following publication of the Bullock report will act as a catalyst in some areas. The Railways Board and Steel Corporation might be the next two major industries with schemes. But British Airways' unions have also set up a trade union committee which could provide a spring board for a worker director claim within the coming months. In the gas industry, the unions are interested in having a worker director system provided they also have a closed shop to consolidate their position plus wider collective bargaining arrangements.

In the coal industry, in spite of the miners' insistence that industrial democracy should be based on joint union-management arrangements in place, there is in fact already a large measure of national-level industrial democracy. This operates through a tripartite Government Coal Board-trade union committee set up after the 1974 miners' strike to examine broad issues. The committee, which is issuing a report on the industry's prospects next week, is backed by wide-ranging consultation arrangements and, when coupled with the miners' basic industrial clout, it means the unions need not bother with a claim for seats on the National Coal Board itself. The unions would probably also not want to see their tripartite system institutionalised into too rigid a structure, and so would oppose any legislative changes.

Also included in the legislation will be companies in which the National Enterprise Board has an interest and this could lead to British Leyland, the NEB company with a relatively new but widespread participation committee system, being another early candidate for a Board-level face lift.

The BP argument begins again

AT THE END of last year, the Government had to search hard for ways of meeting the views of the International Monetary Fund about the proper size of the public sector borrowing requirement for 1977-78 without creating too great a political explosion among its supporters. It hit on the financially unorthodox but workable expedient of reducing the apparent size of the PSBR by some £500m through a sale of the British Petroleum shares acquired as a result of the Burmah support operation which would reduce the total State holding in BP to 51 per cent. This move, opponent in Cabinet of the main vice was the Energy Secretary, Mr. Wedgwood Benn.

It is easy enough to credit reports, therefore, that Mr. Benn and some of his colleagues are using the improvement in the country's economic situation—presumably this means the rise in the exchange reserve and the heavy sales of gilt-edged—as an opportunity for re-opening the argument. No doubt there are a good many people in the Labour Party who believe that the State should never divest itself of any asset, just as there are many in the Conservative Party who believe that it should divest itself of as many as possible. No doubt, too, there are a good many moderates in both parties who think that the State would do better to preserve its holding in a company like BP than acquire shares in less successful companies.

Practical grounds In fact, Mr. Benn is said to be arguing for retention on practical grounds rather than grounds of principle. On the one hand, he is reported to have urged, this is the wrong time to sell BP; the shares (which it is planned to sell at some time during 1977/78) will be worth considerably more later on. On the other hand, the legal position about the former Burmah shareholding has yet to be finally resolved and it would be unwise to reduce the State

MEN AND MATTERS

High jinks in Chinatown

It was dragon meets Press day yesterday in Soho's Chinatown restaurant. Introductions were made by Vincent Tsui (pronounced chewey), current president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and the prime mover behind the fund raising operation which brought the 140 feet long silver beast over from Hong Kong to celebrate both Chinese New Year and the Silver Jubilee with a traditional dragon dance in Trafalgar Square.

The dragon has already been introduced to readers of this column so while the Kung-fu following dragon dance team went through their gong and drum routine I concentrated on Tsui himself. A small, affable man in an immaculate blue pin stripe suit Tsui spearheaded that influx of Hong Kong Chinese which has created a recognisable Chinatown in Soho over the past 10 years. He depressingly describes himself as a layabout, but is in fact a very shrewd and hard working accountant who built up the Lee Ho Fuk (translation delicious) Chinese restaurant chain and has become one of the key men in the local Chinese community.

Originally from Canton, Tsui moved to Hong Kong when he was six and came to London about 10 years ago. He has ambitious plans for the Chamber of Commerce. One project, in co-operation with the Catering Industry Training Board, is to set up a special course in Chinese cooking, partly to keep up the high standard of Chinese cooking and improve the English and serving style of cooks and waiters but also to allow British housewives and others to learn the skills of genuine Chinese cooking. He estimates that about one-third of the British catering in-



It's part of the Government's drive for holidays at home!

partner close to a million dollars. Another very useful asset must have been the acquisition of an influential Saudi partner in Prince Abdel-Rahman bin Abdullah, nephew of King Abdel-Aziz, founder of the dynasty, who took a 50 per cent stake in the specially formed Saudi Pritchard.

One major burden to overcome was the question of performance bonds, which British banks tend to be loathe to guarantee, but this contract broke new ground. Pritchard persuaded the Saudis to limit the bond to 10 per cent of the value of each year's work, reducing the liability to 2 per cent of the total value of the contract compared with the standard 5 to 10 per cent. Access to local guarantees through their Saudi partner and underwriting by U.S. banks of the American share also removed a lot of headaches. One of the great advantages of teaming up with Waste Management Inc., whose multifarious cleansing activities including

emptying the White House dustbins in Washington, is access to their American city-wide cleansing experience. Unlike the municipalised operations common in Europe many U.S. cities are contract cleaned by private enterprise.

One of the side effects of the new contract is that the Riyadh authorities now have their first accurate city plan. Waste Management's men walked every foot of the town with a pedometer working out where to place the 200,000 dustbins needed for this fast expanding city of 600,000 inhabitants.

Two down

What happens to youngish life assurance experts when they turn their backs on the City? Tim Walker, 34, went off to the West Country to run a private zoo where he plans to raise exotic animals. His erstwhile colleague Dan Dage is more conventional: having decided that he had become "faded" he has decided to seek fresh business pastures in America.

Walker and Dage were among the kingpins first of Abbey Life and latterly of Hambro Life Assurance. Walker went last summer when Hambro Life was floated as a public company, and Dage's departure was announced yesterday. The third side of the marketing triumvirate which built up Abbey then Hambro was managing director Mark Weinberg, who created a stir in 1970 when he, Walker, Dage and three other top executives quit Abbey for Hambro. Dage who looked after the sales force, still owns £900,000 worth of Hambro Life shares. Weinberg said last night he was sad to see old colleagues go, but "there are no moral obligations of any kind."

The FAMOUS GROUSE advertisement featuring a bottle of whisky and a glass, with the text 'Quality in an age of change' and 'Observer'.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE

POLITICS TO-DAY

BY DAVID WATT

Majesty, but without the power

EXT SUNDAY marks the 25th anniversary of the death of King George VI and the accession of Queen Elizabeth to the throne.

It is enough to say that Queen Elizabeth has succeeded very well in carrying out the dignified part of her office. She has brought continuity in a period of acute change; she has brought the calm of a glamorous tradition to the wounds of last power.

of the situation under King George VI. He, like his father and his daughter, naturally exercised the limited rights laid down for a constitutional monarch by Bagebot in 1867—the right to be consulted, the right to encourage, and the right to warn.

In the case of the dissolution of Parliament the convention was more disputed, and leading constitutional lawyers at the time of the coronation expressed doubt whether in practice this prerogative could be exercised.



Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at the House of Windsor (Hutchinson, £5.65).



Mr. Heath and Mr. Callaghan in conversation.

with the Government of the day and that a resolute Prime Minister has always held the whip hand whatever the constitutional conventions may state.

Now the public perceives those conventions partly in the light of the general climate of opinion about "privilege," the monarchy and about a particular monarch. But people are also influenced by custom and precedent—both of which become rusty and inoperative if they are not kept bright by use.

Heavily hedged

The assumption in 1952 about the sovereign's personal prerogative was that it consisted, first, of the power to choose the Prime Minister and, secondly, of the power, in extreme cases, to refuse a Prime Minister's request for a general election.

going a major operation in an American clinic. What was to be done? Churchill actually recovered and the problem rolled away, but it seems, according to Mr. Larey (and this is the most interesting new fact contained in his book) that the Queen would have sent for Lord Salisbury to act as Prime Minister pro tempore.

The second incident was the famous post-Suez choice between Mr. Harold Macmillan and Mr. R. A. Butler (now Lord Butler). Here the Queen in reality

handed over the choice to the Conservative Party but went through the motions of consulting Churchill and Salisbury publicly in order to maintain the maximum appearance of a royal discretion. When the Conservative establishment chose for its own good reasons Mr. Macmillan she accepted him without question, but was subsequently criticised for having gone to Churchill and Salisbury who would naturally choose the less modern candidate.

The lesson of this affair was learnt at the Palace—or so it seemed. In 1963, when it became a question of choosing Mr. Macmillan's successor under extremely difficult and confusing circumstances, the Queen once again handed the choice to the Conservative Party and simply waited to be given the answer by Mr. Macmillan from his sickbed.

Paralysis of investment

From The Managing Director, Cotswolds. Sir—May we hope that the fundamental irrelevance that is investigating the investment role of city institutions will invest in that other monumental relevance—Bullock.

Letters to the Editor

those economic functions which we decide to abandon collectively, when the cost in taxation has been taken into account. For the rest the economy should be subject to the other regulator of the market. Through this we—ourselves-as-consumers—are the boss over ourselves-as-producers.

Where the real power will lie

From Mr. T. Williams. Sir—According to some of the political pundits power in industry has shifted from management to the shop floor. However, this may be in the limited field of industry it is certain that power in its widest sense—the ability to shape the destiny of mankind—is devolving increasingly upon scientists and technologists.

Cats well out of the bag

From Mr. M. Hirtzel. Sir—Mr. Paul Dean, MP (January 31), says: "The majority report of the Bullock Committee has let the cat out of the bag. The issue is not industrial democracy but a power struggle for Britain's Boardrooms."

Composition of company boards

From Mr. P. McCaig. Sir—There will be so much discussion about the merits or otherwise of the Bullock Report recommendations that perhaps at this stage it is just as well to ask the following questions. What makes the academics and trade unionists on the committee believe that the majority of a Board of directors' time is spent on industrial relations questions?

The German experience

From Mr. H. McCulloch. Sir—Discussions that have been broadcast and reported in the Press on the Bullock report make considerable play on the efficacy of the German Company policy in Germany, and how successfully they have developed worker participation over the years with obvious beneficial results.

Fitness to be a director

From Mr. C. Jackson. Sir—So many aspire to a directorship—son of the father, old school tie, retired admiral, trade unionist, women's lib, but nobody asks what are directors appointed to do, and what knowledge, experience, abilities and personal qualities best fit a person to do it.

Explanation wanted

From The Financial Director, East Midlands Finance. Sir—What is industrial democracy? W. Lyon, 1, Woolfram Wygate, Spalding.

Distorting the system

Mr. L. Clark. Sir—Bullock makes the fatal take of confusing the political and economic spheres. Democracy is the name for all the voting procedures which would come to a head in a Parliament. Head-counting and whomever it is a question of electing the general election, or general will. Political democracy impinges on the autonomy by the imposing of laws by overall management of

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To-day's Events

- Prince Charles visits Hoover factory, Merthyr Tydfil, and later opens Guest Keen and Nettlefolds steelworks and rod mill, Cardiff. Mr. Andrew Young, new U.S. Ambassador to United Nations, on tour of Southern Africa. End of two-day meeting between President Giscard d'Estaing of France and Herr Helmut Schmidt, West German Chancellor, Paris. Mr. Edmund Dell, Trade Secretary, ends two-day talks on bilateral trade, East Berlin. EEC permanent representatives consider their reply to Soviet note on future catch-levels of fish.

The Cologne International Hardware, Housewares and Domestic Appliances Fairs.

From Feb. 10-15, Midland Bank will be taking care of business in Cologne.



If your business is buying or selling hardware, houseware or domestic appliances then Midland Bank will have a man in Cologne who can help with your export finance. Frank Dunphy, Chairman of the panel for Overseas Trade Development, will be there from Feb. 10-14 to help make your trip a profitable one. If the occasion arises where you think you could use a little friendly, free advice, talk to him. He'll be staying at Excelsior Hotel Ernst, Dom Platz, Cologne. Tel: 2701, Telex 882 645. If you'd like a word with Mr. Dunphy before he leaves London, feel free to call him at 01-606 9944. Midland Bank International. Midland Bank Limited, International Division, 60 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3BN.

COMPANY NEWS + COMMENT

Associated Fisheries recovers to £1.91m.

REPORTING a recovery from losses of £2.05m to pre-tax profits of £1.91m for the year ended September 30, 1976, Mr. P. M. Tapscott, the chairman of Associated Fisheries, says the outcome is particularly gratifying after a most difficult first half, when the group made a pre-tax loss of £87,000 against £1.62m in the previous comparable period.

Turnover for the year grew by only 1 1/2 per cent to £88.73m, but the recovery in profit recouped the turnover of nearly £4m. Each division contributed to this result. Losses have been eliminated wherever they occurred, and the group is returning to the substantial assets employed "is continuing with great vigour."

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Assoc. Fisheries	18	1	Pratt (F.) Engrg.	18	7
Benn Brothers	18	6	Property Security	18	5
Braid Group	18	8	Rees Stakis	19	4
C.G.S.B. Holdings	19	2	Syltone	18	4
English & N.Y. Ist.	19	2	Teleson	19	1
Gough Cooper	19	1	Traded Options	18	3
Hill & Smith	18	5	Whittings	19	2
Ladies Pride	18	2	Wiggins Construct.	19	5
Lonrho	19	4	Winterbottom Tst.	18	5

cast about the outcome of the year, says Mr. Tapscott.

The general trading outlook for the group justifies considerably greater optimism than a year ago although, in common with the whole of British industry, many problems remain, states the chairman.

It is the intention of the Board to restore the annual dividend to the 1973-74 peak level of 3.53p per 23p share on the earliest practical occasion.

Meanwhile this year's single final dividend is 1.23p net compared with last year's single interim payment of 0.1625p. Earnings are shown at 5.18p per share against a loss per share of 5.22p for 1974-75.

Group turnover for 1976-77 was £88,730,000 compared with £87,200,000 for 1975-76. Net interest paid was £30,304,000 against £40,888,000 for 1975-76. Profit before tax was £1,910,000 against £87,000 for 1975-76. Tax was £1,112,000 against £1,132,000 for 1975-76. Profit attributable to shareholders was £44,100,000 against £27,400,000 for 1975-76. Extraordinary profits were £10,400,000 against £5,400,000 for 1975-76. Preference dividends were £2,000,000 against £2,000,000 for 1975-76. Ordinary interest was £2,000,000 against £2,000,000 for 1975-76. Proposed final dividend was 1.23p against 0.1625p for 1975-76. To reserves was £25,116,000 against £24,737,000 for 1975-76. After credits of £28,272,000 in respect of the White Fish Subsidy Scheme and provisions of £13,000 (Nil) to reduce value of certain assets at an amount in their estimated realisable value, 7 Losses of £3,800,000 for 1975-76.

The Board has now seen management accounts for the first quarter of the new financial year, and profits of each division are ahead of budget and much ahead of the comparable period last year. But with a continuing inflation of costs it is impractical at this stage to make any fore-

cast about the outcome of the year, says Mr. Tapscott.

After losing £0.5m in the first half, Associated Fisheries swung sharply back into profit in the second half for an overall turnover of £4m. Roughly half the turnaround came from the trawler interests, where the fleet has been cut by close to a third over the last two and a-half years and certain costly shore installations have been dropped. The rate of catch has been disappointing, but this has been more than offset by fish prices which are 50 per cent up on a year ago. The food-processing side, which lost £0.7m last year, has chipped in well over £0.3m, and the cold storage operations have added in perhaps another £0.5m. Though the group has staged a marked recovery, its profits are still nearly £2m below the 1974 figure and the dividend has not been fully restored: the shares at 47p yield a low 4.1 per cent.

Progress at Ladies Pride

ON TURNOVER, increased from £4.5m to £4.68m, profit of Ladies Pride Outerwear rose by £39,171 to £806,171 for the year to November 30, 1976 after £242,736 (£221,428) at half way.

Earnings are stated to be up 9.83p per 20p share (9.83p adjusted) and a final net dividend of 1.665p makes the total for the

Traded Options Users Assoc. established

To assist Stock Exchange members which may be interested in joining the European Options Exchange, an organisation called "The London Traded Options

Users Association" has been established under the chairmanship of Mr. C. J. B. Whitehead, at present of Hedderwick Stirling Grambar and Co. to whom inquiries should be addressed.

The Stock Exchange Council's own committee on traded options will remain in being. Its duties will be to keep the relevant departments and standing committees informed of proposals of the European Options Exchange.

The Council's committee will also help the European Options Exchange in any negotiations with the various regulatory bodies in this country which may be necessary.

Syltone well up after six months

PRE-TAX PROFIT of Syltone increased sharply to £256,000 against £142,000, for the half year to September 30, 1976 on a turnover of £0.55m to £0.58m. Total profit for 1975-76 was £302,440.

An interim dividend up from 1.05p to 1.4p per 25p share is announced absorbing £15,921 against £11,546—reduced by waivers of £14,534 (£12,088). The directors point out that the higher interim does not indicate any intention of proposing a final more than sufficient to maintain the total at 4.2p.

After tax of £151,000 (£88,000) the net profit emerged at £105,000 (£54,000). The tax charge is higher than 20 per cent because of losses incurred by the U.S. subsidiary which cannot be offset for U.K. tax purposes.

A.C. Cars

Including a transfer of £2,875 (£2,950) from the staff pension fund, profit of A.C. Cars improved from £146,259 to a record £199,086 for the year to September 30, 1976, subject to tax of £59,882, compared with £72,800.

In July last year the directors said that the first half profit level of £78,509 (£51,000) would be difficult to maintain.

Dividend total per 5p share is lifted from 0.88p to 0.95p net with a final of 0.6p.

The company makes high performance cars, and vehicles for the disabled.

Hill and Smith expands

AFTER BEING ahead halfway with pre-tax profit up from £338,141 to £370,648 Hill and Smith ended the year at September 30, 1976, up £32,507 to £370,648. External sales for the company, whose activities include steel stockholding and fabrication of steel products, were up from £3.55m to £3.7m.

The current year has started with increased turnover in all divisions and though industry is still in recession and public spending has been curtailed, the directors are confident that at this stage, to anticipate any interruption of annual profits growth.

A scrip issue of one-for-ten in Ordinary shares is proposed to holders registered February 25, 1977.

21977 earnings per 25p share improved to 8.5p (7.5p) after adjusted for a one-for-ten scrip issue. A final dividend of £1.067p net raises the total to 2.1567p against an equivalent of 2p.

The tax charge of £454,014 (£400,000) reflects a transfer to deferred tax reserve as it is anticipated that the full liability will be expunged by accelerated capital allowances and stock appreciation relief.

Net profit came out at £372,471 (£333,837) after tax of £59,882 (£52,037), took £72,667 (£68,039).

Winterbottom sees higher earnings

It appears that earnings per share of Winterbottom Trust will show a satisfactory increase in the current year, says Mr. S. A. Field, the chairman. But he points out that if, at any time, it seems desirable to move money from high yielding deposits of Government securities into equities, the expected rise in earnings would be moderated.

As reported on January 5, gross revenue for the year ended November 30, 1976, rose to £0.58m. (£0.52m.) and revenue before tax improved £25,892 to £30,083.

The dividend for the year was up at 3.75p net. Net assets at year end were £12.8m. (£12.8m.) and asset value per 25p share was 218p (202.3p) including full currency premium of 34.7p (41.5p). A statement of source and application of funds, included for the first time, shows liquidity decreased £0.39m. (£0.41m.).

The 12 per cent rise in income received partly because of the higher starting value of dividends received from abroad. The sterling cost of interest paid on the company's dollar loans also increased.

Sales and purchases of U.K. equities were evenly balanced during the year. Holdings of Government Stock were increased slightly at the expense of deposits and those in Japan and South-East Asia were moderately increased at the expense of U.S. holdings.

An analysis of distribution shows that 59 per cent of assets are invested abroad, and that only 28 per cent are invested in British equities. As this emphasis on foreign investment has an adverse effect on income, the directors look forward to the day when they can increase holdings in British equities, Mr. Field comments.

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A reduced deficit of £251,000, compared with £378,000 is announced by Property Security Investment Trust for the half year to September 30, 1976. The figures include all interest and other outgoings in respect of a profit during the half year—this will result in an overall surplus on

the revenue account for the full year. No further property sales are contemplated in the second half, they add.

The net interim dividend is held at 0.435p per 50p share—last year's total was 1.685p and the deficit £0.71m.

The results of property and share dealing activities were not material and following previous practice, are not included in the figures.

During the half-year, three new developments were started, all of which are either let or under negotiation.

The value of overseas assets substantially exceeds the total of foreign currency borrowings. Any currency gain arising has not been included in the figures.

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Earnings are shown to be increased to 2.53p per 25p share (1.4p) and an interim dividend of 0.7p net (0.5p) announced. Last year's total was 1.3985p.

The interim dividend has been readjusted to bring it into better proportion to the total dividend which under present legislation the company is permitted to pay in respect of the current year.

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DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

Company	Current payment	Date of payment	Corro- sponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
A. C. Cars	0.6	April 4	0.8	0.85	0.18
Assoc. Fisheries	1.23	April 7	Nil	1.25	0.18
Benn Bros.	0.7	April 7	0.5	1.9	1.9
Gough Cooper	3.25	March 22	3.25	5.2	5.2
Hill and Smith	1.41	March 26	1.5	2.18	2.0
Knaia Lempur-Reppong	3.2	April 9	5	10	10
Ladies Pride Outerwear	1.68	April 9	1.52	2.77	2.77
Malaysia Rubber	0.2	April 1	0.18	0.35	0.35
F. Pratt Eng.	2.87	April 7	2.61	4.31	3.92
PSIT	0.46	April 4	0.46	1.69	1.69
Syltone	1.4	April 15	0.5	1.05	4.2
Teleson	0.53	April 12	0.37	0.38	0.45
Whittings	0.85				

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated. * Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡ Malaysian cents.

F. Pratt better than expected

AS EXPECTED pre-tax profits of F. Pratt Engineering Corporation for the year to October 31, 1976, did not reach the previous year's level of £1.1m. after falling from £850,000 to £122,250 in the first half.

The directors say the result is rather better than anticipated at mid-way, especially in view of the continued absence of a general upturn in activity.

Group sales totalled £14.72m (£14.95m.) of which more than 50 per cent were direct or indirect exports.

Orders in hand stood at £3.7m (£5.3m.) at the year end and are equivalent to £7.7m.

The final dividend is 2.8725p net per 25p share for a maximum permitted 4.3084p (£3.963p) total.

Turnover for 1976-77 was £14,720,000 against £14,950,000 for 1975-76. Profit before tax was £122,250 against £850,000 for 1975-76. Tax was £1,112,000 against £1,132,000 for 1975-76. Profit attributable to shareholders was £44,100,000 against £27,400,000 for 1975-76. Extraordinary profits were £10,400,000 against £5,400,000 for 1975-76. Preference dividends were £2,000,000 against £2,000,000 for 1975-76. Ordinary interest was £2,000,000 against £2,000,000 for 1975-76. Proposed final dividend was 1.23p against 0.1625p for 1975-76. To reserves was £25,116,000 against £24,737,000 for 1975-76. After credits of £28,272,000 in respect of the White Fish Subsidy Scheme and provisions of £13,000 (Nil) to reduce value of certain assets at an amount in their estimated realisable value, 7 Losses of £3,800,000 for 1975-76.

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BIDS AND DEALS

Beaver likely to fight 18p offer from CHI

CHI Industrials, having failed to come to agreement over merger terms with chemical processors Beaver Group in talks held last month, has gone ahead with a direct appeal to shareholders with a bid that values Beaver at around \$1.26m.

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available whether dividends concerned are increases or falls and the sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

Table with columns: TO-DAY, FUTURE DATES, and company names like Anglo American Corp, Anglo American Petroleum Services, Anglo American Textiles.

Can—a private company—did not decide to buy the shares held by Meta Box. It is up to the British company to dispose of its holdings, according to Board chairman Mr. Abraham Lev.

LEADERFLUSH—MR. GILARDI QUITS BOARD

Leaderflush Holdings said yesterday that it has requested and received the resignation of Mr. Piero Gilardi, a director, against whom a lawsuit is being brought.

The Board has informed Mr. Gilardi that they regard his actions as detrimental to the company. Some controversy surrounds the ownership of a further 22 per cent stake in Leaderflush, which Mr. David Sawyer, managing director, sold to the investment clients of the Trade Development Bank of Switzerland last May.

W. LAWRENCE BUYS LK IND OFFSHOOT

Walter Lawrence has purchased, with effect from October 1, 1976, Nico Manufacturing, a wholly-owned subsidiary of LK Industrial Investments, for \$150,000 cash.

METAL BOX

THE LOCAL shareholders in the Israel Can Company met this afternoon to consider the situation created by the intention of its British partner, Metal Box, to sell its 27 per cent holding in the Israel company.

DERITEND EXPANDS

DERITEND STAMPING is negotiating to acquire A. V. Milton of Liverpool, together with its subsidiary Crosshall Engineering. The Milton's activities in the field of electrical repairs and contracting are complementary to those of Deritend electrical division.

GENTING GOLDEN HOPE

Genting Highlands, in a letter sent out yesterday, warns Golden Hope shareholders not to be "rushed into a precipitous decision," and accept the HME merger proposals.

Racal increases Milgo offer

Racal Electronics yesterday extended for another day its tender offer for the shares of U.S. data communications group Milgo Electronics, and subsequently improved the terms of its cash offer from U.S.\$3.50 a share to \$21 a share, valuing Milgo at \$56m.

Racal revealed that it had received tenders for approaching 24 per cent of Milgo stock, closely matching the 21.7 per cent it estimates. The rival bidder for Milgo, the U.S. Applied Digital Data Systems, did not reveal how many tenders it had received. It said, however, that it was not withdrawing its offer, a share change offer which, with ADDS shares trading around \$131, is worth approximately \$32 million.

SHARE STAKES

The chairman of CCH Investments Mr. A. S. Currie and associates have acquired a further 30,000 Ordinary shares in the company. They now own 625,000 (11.2 per cent) shares in the company.

MAURICE JAMES AND YORK TRUST

Discussions are taking place between Maurice James Holdings and York Trust, in which it has a 16.1 per cent stake, on a proposed merger. Shareholders in each company are to be asked to vote on the merger, which will be made very shortly.

DATASTREAM

Lazard Brothers announces on behalf of a consortium headed by BOC International and certain investment trusts in the Touche Renouart Group, that the offer for the 23 per cent of Datastream's share capital not already owned closed at 3p on February 2.

JAS FINLAY

James Finlay Corporation has subscribed for 40 per cent of the Ordinary capital of Gaelic Invoice

Reo Stakis expansion

IN HIS annual statement, Mr. Reo Stakis, the chairman of The Reo Stakis Organisation, says that apart from expanding interests in take-away food and liquor businesses and the 200,000 sq. ft. Capital Chevalier in Glasgow, most of the capital expenditure in the current year will be incurred on improvements to existing units.

Expenditure will include a major project at Dunblane Hydro Hotel to complete the provision of private bathrooms and improved bedroom accommodation and the Scotch Tourist Board's offer of financial assistance towards the cost of this project.

On the growth of take-away food and liquor businesses, Mr. Stakis says that Reo Stakis is a major international company at an advanced stage to acquire the main franchise for Scotland for certain food products and the first year of business has begun a rapid expansion in cut price off sales liquor shops.

Trading as B. J. Young's this division has 13 shops and the directors look forward to a continuing increase in the number of outlets. During the past year, Reo Stakis acquired to operate the Casino Chevalier in new premises. This move was occasioned by Glasgow District Council who intended to develop the present casino site.

The new club should be operational in the summer of 1977, at which time the present premises will be closed for renovation.

As reported with the preliminary figures on January 18, current year first quarter profits were ahead of last year and although a continuing fall in consumer spending is expected, this should not prevent an improvement in the first half profits. During the 53 weeks to October 3, 1976, turnover increased by 23 per cent to £29.97m, and operating profit by 18.2 per cent to £12.3m, following a disappointing first six months' second half profits exceeded £1m.

Factors and is also making available a line of credit in order to expand the business of Gaelic Gaelic specialises in the factoring of debts for a wide range of clients operating throughout the U.K. In 1976, its unaudited accounts showed pre-tax profit of £13,800 and net assets of £28,000.

CARR'S AGAINST W. CUMBERLAND FARMERS BID

The directors of Carr's Milling will strongly resist any bid that might be forthcoming from West Cumberland Farmers. This statement, which is accompanied by advice to shareholders to take no action, follows the announcement that the two parties were having talks which could lead to an offer being made for the company.

G. BLAIR BUYS SCOTTISH FOUNDRY

George Blair and Co., the Newcastle based engineers and steel founders, has purchased Glasgow Foundry, a steel foundry in Scotland, and will continue to operate it as a steel foundry under the name of Larkhall Steel Castings. The change of ownership will take place on February 7, 1977.

SEKONG RUBBER

The proceeds of the sale of Sekong Estate have now been received by Sekong Rubber in London and after payment of sale expenses and after providing for the estate tax, amount to some £100,000.

The estate had been closed down since 1930, because the 1,400 acres planted with rubber were unproductive. Of the proceeds from the sale £100,000 has been invested in gilt edged securities £12,000 in plantation companies and the remainder on deposit awaiting investment.

MAIDENHEAD INV.

In the official document giving details of the Scheme of Arrangements as detailed on January 6, 1977, the directors of Maidenhead Investments and their advisers, Singer and Friedlander, state that they consider the terms of the Scheme are fair and reasonable and recommend that holders of the Scheme shares should approve the proposals.

ASSOCIATE DEALS

Paul E. Schweder, Miller and Co. has bought 23,000 shares in Hindson Group at 24p on behalf of an associate.

Robert Fleming and Co. has purchased 10,000 Spear and Jackson international at 124p per share as an associate.

NO PROBES

The proposed mergers between Ericom Investments and Menti Investment Trust and Bowater Packaging and Cross Paperway will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Approval for Telford factory plan

TELFORD DEVELOPMENT Corporation has had Government permission to build 17 more factories on the Stafford Park industrial estate.

They will range in size from 4,500 square feet to 10,500. The Corporation hopes to start building before the end of next month for completion in about a year.

Protests over mine plans

OPPOSITION IS mounting in Orkney to plans for test bore holes for uranium mining in the West coast of the islands. A protest march is planned for Tuesday when the planning committee of the Orkney Islands Council is to discuss again the application by the South of Scotland Electricity Board for permission to sink 11 bore holes in the area of Stromness and Teshuay.

MINING NEWS

Australian union wants uranium go-ahead

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

A FURTHER and significant step forward has been taken on the rocky road to an Australian uranium industry. It comes 24th February when the Australian Workers Union has relaxed its policy on the export of uranium and will now allow sales to be made to some 105 countries instead of only to West Germany, Japan and the U.S.

In Sydney the AWU federal secretary, Mr. Frank Mitchell, said: "We want to see uranium mined and processed here, nuclear reactors built in Australia and enriched uranium sold overseas." He said that the countries to which exports would be allowed would be those which have ratified the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, or which support the partial nuclear test ban treaty.

If AWU policy were carried out, 15 nuclear reactors in Australia would be built, providing 20,000 to 30,000 jobs compared with only 300 at the Rio Tinto-Zinc group's small Mary Kathleen uranium mine in a country which is favoured with possibly the world's richest deposits of the material.

The AWU is Australia's second largest union and its statement contrasts with the policy of the Labor Party and the Australian Council of Trade Unions which want to limit uranium mining to Mary Kathleen and exports to existing commitments.

Other hurdles remain to be cleared before Australia's potential uranium producers can get the long-awaited go-ahead. But the latest news imparted some cheer to the share market yesterday, where the continental closed 75p up at 775p.

COURT FOILS CREDITORS

Fighting for survival, Canada's only columbium pentoxide producer, Village Metals, has asked the court to allow it to continue to operate its plant in Quebec. The Quebec Government and Little Long Lac Gold Mines of Toronto for financial help.

St. Lawrence, the chief of which is the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, and debt holders, whose trustee is the Canada Permanent Trust, tried to get St. Lawrence to agree to advertising ten lots for public tender. But St. Lawrence won a court order granting a temporary reprieve on the sale, pending a final judgment which is still awaited.

St. Lawrence was recently shut down for nearly a year because of a strike. Last August, Gourds proposed to creditors a financial package which would have provided swift payment of debts. But it never won more than preliminary approval.

Our Montreal correspondent reports that the Quebec Government, anxious to avoid the mine's permanent closure, is believed to have offered help worth \$2m. (£1.1m.). Mr. Gourds has meanwhile stated that he is negotiating for the participation of Little Long Lac in St. Lawrence.

PROFITS GROWTH AT PLACER

The Canadian group, Placer Development, announces higher net profits for 1976 at \$13m. (£10.5m.) compared with \$13.5m. in 1975. But both figures were swollen by non-recurring items.

Last year Placer received a \$3m. credit after the withdrawal of a Philippines withholding tax on dividends. In 1975 there was a gain of \$6.5m. from the sale of exploration interests in Australia. In 1976, Placer was helped by the removal of mineral royalties in British Columbia, where it

operates a molybdenum mine. Molybdenum sales were in any case better than expected. Placer faced lower exploration expenses. At the same time the growth of profits was curbed by lower earnings at Matagami Lake Mines, the Toronto base metals producer, in which Placer has a 27 per cent interest.

Zircon's fall hits AMC & W. Titanium

THE rapid fall in previously buoyant prices for zircon, coupled with increased costs, has hit half-year earnings of the Consolidated Minerals group's Australian beach sand minerals producers, Associated Minerals Consolidated and Western Titanium.

Despite higher sales, AMC reports a lower profit for the six months to December 31 of \$1.2m. (£0.76m.) compared with \$2.5m. in the same period of 1976. The

Elandsrand's 1980 start

THE Anglo American Corporation's Elandsrand gold mine in South Africa is now expected to reach production at the beginning of 1980—approximately one year ahead of schedule. Partly because of the decision to accelerate work and partly because of higher than forecast costs, the total expenditure to bring the mine to production is now put at £92.7m. (£57.7m. some £11.5m. bigger than was earlier forecast.

It is pointed out, however, that the more rapid completion of work should reduce the effects of inflation and offset the anticipated increase in pre-production capital expenditure. The revised mining plan will result in an area of higher grade ore being mined during the initial stages of the project, thus enhancing its viability.

As recently announced, Elandsrand is raising some \$60m. (£40m.) via a rights issue of 125 new shares at R2.20 (147p) ex premium for every 100 held at January 23. The offer opens to public and closes on February 23.

Elandsrand were 110p ex-rights yesterday. There is on a limited public interest in the company, the shares being held largely by Western Ultra Deep Levels, Major holders in the latter company are: Anglo American, Amgold, Rand Selection and Gold Fields of South Africa.

ROUND-UP

Underground operations at Zambia's only lead and zinc mine will stop within the next few years. Deposits at the Broken Hill mine of Nebraska Consolidated Copper will be exhausted within that time. But surface operations to extract 2m. tonnes of low lead and zinc material from dumps accumulated over 70 years will continue for ten years.

Target output has still not been achieved at the new St. Hubert columbium mine at Chicoutimi in Quebec City, because of technical problems. The partnership between the state-owned Soquem and the Toronto group, Teck Corporation, came into production last year.

latest results also reflect a sharp reduction in the value of zircon stocks and it is expected that the difficult conditions in the zircon market will persist for some time. The current year's interim is being reduced to 8 cents a year ago and the subsequent final for 1976-77 of 18 cents; the latest interim, however, is payable on the capital increased by the acquisition of Western Titanium. A re-merger loss for the past half-year of \$1.02m. (£0.69m.) is announced by Western Titanium. This company has suffered from commission problems at the \$32m. (£12.7m.) Eneabba mining complex together with write-off costs.

It is expected that the problems at Eneabba will be resolved and that the AMC-Western Titanium merger will yield long-term benefits to shareholders. But it is added that the companies face an uncertain period in the short term and it is Western Titanium unlikely to make any profits in the current half-year, no improvement is expected in AMC-WT group earnings during the same period.

Imperial Oil has found more columbium in northern Ontario but development awaits improvement in world prices.

Disruption of power supplies caused by a fire resulting from an electrical fault, has meant loss of production at the Gotfields group Doornfontein gold mine in South Africa. The fire in the western shaft, which started yesterday morning, Full power supplies will be restored by Sunday evening.

The small South African producer, Village Metals, had working loss in the 1976 second half of R145,000 (£92,250), to end a loss for the whole year of R228,000. Working in the second half was restricted to surface as the underground operations, the company stated.

Centrust, the investment of South Africa's Gem Mining group, had a net surplus of R2,500 (£1,562) in the second half of 1976, a sharp rise from the R1,562 (£1,000) in the same half of 1975. The dividend is 10c (6.7p) against 12c in the interim stage last year and 30c for the full year 1975-76. Centrust's income is from shares.

MINING BRIEFS

PANAMIC CONSOLIDATED—Lead concentrates produced and sold in January 1976 tonnes (December interim).

Perkin-Elmer ahead after six months

Turnover of Perkin-Elmer in the six months to the end of December, 1976, rose from £3.5m. to £4.5m., and tax advanced from £248,786 to £460,778. Tax took £239,600 against £181,338. The interim dividend is changed at 9p net per share. The principal activity of the company, which is over 97 per cent owned by Perkin-Elmer Corporation of the U.S., is the design, manufacture and sale of scientific analytical instruments.

PSIT INTERIM REPORT. Table with columns: 6 months to 30th September 1976 (unaudited), 6 months to 30th September 1975 (unaudited), Year to 31st March 1976. Rows include Gross rents receivable, Net property and investment income, Less: Interest, Taxation, Attributable to minorities, Loss before dealing and extraordinary items, Dividend (0.455p per share).

The Trans-Oceanic Trust Limited. The Annual General Meeting was held yesterday at 120 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DS. The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 31 October 1976. Table with columns: 1976, 1975, £, £. Rows include Total Revenue, Revenue after taxation and expenses, Earnings per ordinary share, Ordinary dividends for the year, Net asset value per 25p Ordinary share.

The Winterbottom Trust Ltd. Summary of Results for year to 30th November. Table with columns: 1976, 1975, £13,230,000, £12,297,106. Rows include Total Net Assets at Market Value, Ordinary Shares, Asset Value, Earnings, Dividend. Geographical Distribution of Investments. Summary of Statement by the Chairman, Mr. S. A. Field.

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from Bailie, Gifford & Co. 3, Glenfinlas Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6BY.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

IRI warns about bankruptcies

ITALY'S state-owned holding company IRI—the country's largest single employer and largest enterprise—has warned that several of its major subsidiaries like Finmeccanica, Alfa Romeo, Alfasud, Fiat and Alitalia will go bankrupt unless urgent action is taken to reconstruct their respective capital bases.

Japanese video tape rivals

BATTLE LINES between two groups of Japanese video tape recorder manufacturers have been clearly drawn following the announcement by Sony Corporation of a tie-up with two leading electric home appliance producers, Tokyo Shibaru Electric and Sanyo Electric.

Swiss banks to boost capital

Swiss banks, Bank Leu, Banca del Gottardo and Banca di Lugano, are to increase their capital at forthcoming general meetings.

Steady market in Vienna

ORDINARY shares registered in the Vienna Bourse do not exhibit any downward trend last year with the average level of the share price rising 1.5 per cent.

wiggins group

RESULTS TO 30th SEPTEMBER 1976
Tax Profits £106,196 (£68,996)
Dividend 0.7375p (0.6125p)

ROME, Feb. 3.

Thyssen bond on Monday

AUGUST THYSSEN RUEITE, the major German steel concern, confirmed in Duisburg that its DM150m domestic bond would come to the market on Monday next.

Air Siam loses operating licence

THE THAI Cabinet has revoked the operating licence of the troubled airline Air Siam, dealing a blow to the second international airline from Bangkok.

RUAU Group requests low interest loan

BELGIUM'S second largest steel concern, the RUAU group, has asked the Belgian Government for a B.Frs.4bn. (£62.5m.) low interest loan to help meet its current cash crisis.

SELECTED EURODOLLAR BOND PRICES

Table with columns for Bond Name, Price, and Yield. Includes entries like STRAIGHTS, LIBOR, and various Eurodollar bonds.

The Board of GOLDEN HOPE PLANTATIONS

strongly recommend shareholders to accept the HME merger proposals...

- The merger enables you to maintain an outstanding investment in the plantation sector.
The merger should more than double your income.
The merger will increase the potential for continued outstanding growth.
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Do not sell your shares at Genting's price. Accept the merger proposals NOW by filling in and posting the green acceptance form already sent to you so that it will arrive at Harrison's & Crosfield, 1-4 Great Tower Street, London EC3R 5AB. Not later than 3.00 pm on Monday, 7th February 1977.

This advertisement is placed by J. Henry Schroder Bank & Co. Limited on behalf of Golden Hope Plantations Limited. The Directors of Golden Hope have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and the opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and jointly and severally accept responsibility accordingly.



Mr. Shinbei Konishi, President, Takeda Chemical Industries, Ltd.

Takeda Chemical Industries, Ltd.

Report by Mr. Shinbei Konishi, President, for the six months ended 30th September, 1976

Takeda 武田薬品工業株式会社

Since the Japanese recession reached its lowest point one year ago the economy has gradually improved. However, we cannot expect the same high rate of growth as we have experienced in the past and the current trend is toward a modest growth accompanied by continuing adverse factors both at home and abroad.

Pharmaceuticals: Pharmaceutical production in Japan recorded a substantial increase of 18.8% in the first half of 1976 (April-September). The Company's sales of pharmaceuticals were ¥25,595 million (3,922,780 thousand) or a 16.3% increase over the same period in 1975.

Food Products: Sales of our Food Products Division were ¥26,295 million (3,926 thousand) or 5.3% below the same period in 1975. Sales of food seasonings failed to sustain their fast rate of increase.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1976

Table with columns for 1975, 1976, and Yen Millions. Rows include Land, buildings, machinery and equipment, Investments and advances, Current assets, Less: Current liabilities, Other assets, Less: Retirement and severance benefits, Long-term debt.

The interim dividends for the year ending 31st March, 1977, of ¥3.75 per share amounting to ¥1,869 million are not reflected in the above figures.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND COMPANY NEWS

EUROMARKETS

Sweden to borrow \$1bn.

BY TONY HAWKINS

SWEDEN IS to borrow \$1bn. in the Euro market with a seven-year credit on an average spread of less than 1 per cent...

Three other new Euroloan developments include news of the \$150m. credit over six years...

Credit du Nord's dividend passed

PARIS, Feb. 3.

THE FRENCH banking group Credit du Nord has announced that it will pay no dividend for 1976 on profits down to around Frs.5m.

Siemens non-committal on 1976-7

BY GUY HAWTIN

SIEMENS, WEST Germany's largest electrical concern, remains firmly non-committal about the 1976-77 business year.

flow of orders in the first quarter had risen from DM5.1bn. to DM6.6bn., an increase of just over 29.5 per cent.

In the first quarter they rose by 6 per cent from the DM2.2bn. of the first quarter of 1976/7.

KWU would be profitable at the start of the 1980's at latest, said Dr. Plettner.

Neckermann hit by sales fall

BY ADRIAN DICKS

BONN, Feb. 3.

NECKERMANN, the loss-making West German stores, retailing and travel group...

its neck, suffered a 9 per cent drop in turnover to some DM1.5bn.

this, it managed to increase turnover by 10 per cent.

American Motors hoping for break-even

Tenneco profit rise

BY OUR NEW YORK STAFF

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.

TENNECO, a major supplier of natural gas, has announced favourable fourth quarter and year-end results...

AMERICAN MOTORS Corporation, expects break-even results in fiscal 1977, ending September 30.

Van Dyk negotiations with Minnesota Min. VAN DYK Research Corporation said its Board authorized negotiations with Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (3M).

Bell Canada urged to divest

By Robert Gibbons MONTREAL, Feb. 3. THE ISSUE of a breakup of Bell Canada's largest telephone and an internationally-listed company...

Occidental Pet. of Venezuela to sue

BY JOSEPH MANN

CARACAS, Feb. 2.

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM of Venezuela will sue the government here for \$30m. compensation relating to a contract...

However, the government broke off talks on compensating Occidental for the takeover after a report published in the U.S.

Demand for the company's electric motors showed an especially sharp increase of 20 per cent, while other areas of its business...

Jaeger passes turning point

PARIS, Feb. 2.

JAEGER the French motor and aerospace components manufacturer has passed a turning point in its recovery.

Year-end results include a 12 per cent increase in net to \$383.5m. or 4.33 a share.

Gen. Foods dividend GENERAL FOODS Corp. said it increased its quarterly dividend to 41 cents from 37 cents.

Ingersoll-Rand INGERSOLL-RAND said its Board has increased the quarterly dividend to 70 cents a share from 67 cents.

Bahama Cement

NASSAU, Feb. 3. THE \$75m. Bahama Cement Co. a wholly-owned subsidiary of U.S. Steel, will bid for a 49 per cent stake in the company...

BANK OF AMERICA NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

World Value of the Dollar

The table below gives the latest available rates of exchange for the U.S. dollar against various currencies as on Wednesday, February 2.

units per one U.S. dollar except for U.K. sterling (and those currencies at par with sterling) which is quoted in dollars per sterling unit.

Table with columns: Country, Currency, Value of U.S. Dollar, Country, Currency, Value of U.S. Dollar. Lists exchange rates for various countries like Algeria, Albania, Algeria, etc.

EUROBONDS

Hitachi Zosen issue

BY TONY HAWKINS

THE HITACHI Zosen Corporation is to raise \$30m. in the Eurobond market with an issue of seven-year notes guaranteed by the Sanwa Bank, Nikko Securities and S. G. Warburg...

BOND RATE INDEX table showing rates for Medium, Long, and Convertible bonds.

PRIVATE PLACEMENT

Table listing private placements for various countries like Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, etc.

Nomura Europe N.V.

announce that their new telephone number for all departments in the Amsterdam office is: AMSTERDAM (020) 267715

Quebec Urban Community

Can. \$15,000,000 9 1/2% Bonds due 1982. Quebec issues teeded to be marked down but some of the other Canadian issues experienced some support from North American buyers...

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, containing text like 'PPC', 'NATIONAL PRINTING', 'ADUA', 'RESEARCH'.

APPOINTMENTS

Chief Executive

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the appointment of Chief Executive to succeed Mr. A. B. Baldwin, M.Eng., F.I.C.E., F.I.W.E.S., who retires on 18th April 1977. The responsibilities of the Authority include water conservation and supply, sewerage and sewage disposal, river management, land drainage, water recreation and fisheries for the County of Yorkshire, being an area of 6,500 square miles, with a population of some 4½ million - the greater part of which is centred on the woollen and steel industries. It has 6,500 employees and current annual budgets of £110 million (revenue) and £50 million (capital). At the Authority's headquarters in Leeds there are three Directorates covering Operations, Finance and Resource Planning, together with three Departments covering Personnel, Legal and Administration, the heads of which form the Corporate Management Team. The region is managed through seven multi-purpose Divisions based on river catchment areas, and one Division covering the region for land drainage purposes. The person appointed will be the Authority's Chief Officer and Principal Adviser on policy. Candidates should have a proven record of achievement in a large scale organisation. The salary for the post will be in keeping with its demands and responsibilities. Applications should be forwarded to the Chairman, Yorkshire Water Authority, West Riding House, 67 Albion Street, Leeds LS1 5AA from whom further details can be obtained. The closing date for applications will be 21st February 1977.

Yorkshire Water 

General Management

EXPORT MARKETING AND SALES

- THIS new appointment is to lead the export arm of a company manufacturing ranges of static and mobile units with a wide range of applications. The enterprise has an impressive record of profitable growth in world markets.
- THE role is to exploit a unique opportunity for generating new business in developing countries, with the initial emphasis on the Middle East and Africa, and to formulate long term export strategy.
- ESSENTIAL requirements are: success, at top level, in export marketing management, involving complete profit responsibility and experience of direct selling, contract negotiation and execution, and the motivation of agents.
- AGE under 45. Terms are negotiable. Remuneration is unlikely to be less than £15,000.

Write in complete confidence to P. A. R. Lindsay as adviser to the company.

TYZACK & PARTNERS LTD
10 HALLAM STREET LONDON W1N 6DJ
12 CHARLOTTE SQUARE and EDINBURGH EH2 4DN

Investment Banking

KUWAIT

- THIS senior appointment is in a large and well known US financial institution, a major participant in a consortium of financial interests with established operations in The Gulf.
- BASED in Kuwait, with a high measure of personal autonomy, the role encompasses responsibility for corporate finance, international and Eurodollar bond issues, primary market placings and secondary market transactions.
- A VERSATILE and experienced investment banker is required with an affinity for living and working in The Gulf.
- REMUNERATION is negotiable with a substantial tax free base salary and attractive fringe benefits.

Write in complete confidence to J. E. B. Drake as adviser to the bank.

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EXPORT SALES

A new and challenging appointment is being made by our Company, who are Scottish manufacturers of medium weight capital equipment. It is intended to appoint an Export Sales Executive who will be based upon our London Office, but who must be prepared to travel overseas, not only to the Continent, but in the Middle East and Central and Northern South America. There will be available commensurate salary, pension benefits, company car, and other appropriate benefits.

Application, together with curriculum vitae, to Managing Director, Box A.5820, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

Operations Director

• THIS appointment is to the main board of a major company providing a wide range of plant, equipment and services to the engineering, chemical and energy industries. Financial and technical resources are strong and further growth lies ahead.

• THE role is to direct the profitable execution of multi-million pound contracts and the associated manufacturing operations. Principal subordinates include senior managers in charge of contracts, engineering, procurement, construction and manufacturing.

• EXPERIENCE in a comparable role at the top of a front rank company, preferably concerned with the process plant and steam generating industries, is essential.

• TERMS are negotiable. Salary indicator is around £15,000.

Write in complete confidence to K. R. C. Slater as adviser to the company.

TYZACK & PARTNERS LTD
10 HALLAM STREET LONDON W1N 6DJ
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Technical Director

for a company with an enviable reputation for the technical excellence of its formed metal components supplied to a wide range of OEMs in the UK and world markets.

• RESPONSIBILITY embraces the development and maintenance of machinery and plant, industrial engineering, product design, and materials specification. There are firm prospects of early advancement to general management.

• PROVEN achievement, at senior management level in a comparable role, is the prime requirement. Career progression is likely to have stemmed from a degree, or professional qualification, in mechanical engineering or metallurgy.

• PREFERRED age under 40. Terms are for discussion based on a starting salary of £10,000.

Write in complete confidence to K. R. C. Slater as adviser to the company.

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MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

Applications are invited for the post of LECTURER in Management Accounting in the Department of Management Studies. Candidates, who should be graduates with a professional accounting qualification, should have a specialised interest in cost and management accounting.

Salary - within scale - £23,233-£6,655. Postcard requests for application form and further particulars to Assistant Registrar (Establishment) ref: 77/0745. Candidates may also telephone Professor John Slater for informal discussion. L'boro (0509) 63171, ext. 325.

Loughborough Leicestershire

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

GRADUATES

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We are an International Banking Group with branches throughout the world, who offer the opportunity of a demanding and rewarding career in the Middle and Far East after a short period of training in London.

Vacancies exist for personable and enthusiastic graduates who possess a second class honours degree or better in finance related disciplines, where law, accountancy and economics have been studied. Applicants should preferably have qualified as BA Business Studies, A Management Sciences or BSC Economics (Finance option). Applications from holders of an HND Business Studies are also invited. Candidates are required to be 22 years of age or under and unmarried.

For further details write to Box A.5823, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

MARKET RESEARCH ANALYST

One of the world leaders in the metal building industry seeks Market Research Analyst for Kuwait. Reporting to V.P. Marketing, individual will be singularly responsible for developing entire market research concept. Position involves evaluation of private and governmental construction and peripheral industry markets in Middle East. Also evaluation of new product applications for existing or projected Middle East market needs. Applicants should also possess an advanced university degree in business, marketing, operations research or marketing statistics. Experience level should be 5 to 8 years in sophisticated market research in manufacturing - preferably in construction-related industry. Language requirements: fluent Arabic (absolutely essential), and English. Attractive salary and fringe benefits, plus dynamic career growth opportunity for the right person. Interviews will be conducted beginning February 8. Please send resume and salary history (essential) immediately to: Mr. Leo Sheh, Alghanim - I.K. Room 502A, Triumph House, 189 Regent Street, London W.1.

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MIDDLE EAST: £30,000 pa

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A young professional is required to take resident charge of finance for a major Arabian project. International experience of company formation, money movement and exchange controls, and knowledge of US budgetary and accounting systems, essential.

Housing, children's education and car will be provided and it is likely that the Director will be able to save one year's salary during the initial three-year contract.

Private letters to Mr. A. J. C. Lyddon at 606 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5HN.

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Candidates must be qualified accountants with 10 years experience of financial reporting, budgeting and job costing in the construction industry including the design and establishment of such systems. Preference will be given to those with knowledge of the Middle East and with language proficiency, particularly in Arabic. Total remuneration will be made up of a base salary, foreign service allowance, and performance bonus. A contract will be negotiable for 2-5 years with a terminal bonus of 10% of total base salary earned. Housing, car and driver, medical care, schooling, and one month's leave per annum will be provided.

Please write in confidence with concise personal and career details quoting reference MBS4/FT to J.D. Atchley.

AMS

Arthur Young Management Services
Moor House, London Wall, London EC2Y 5HP

Financial Director

Indonesia

U.S. \$ 30,000+

Our client is a Canadian-based international company in the clothing industry, with world-wide manufacturing and marketing operations. The Indonesian subsidiary, which is located in Jakarta, has an annual turnover of \$17 million and employs 1700 local people.

The position of Financial Director reports to the Company Manager and involves an unusually broad range of responsibilities. In addition to the controllership, treasury, personnel and purchasing functions, duties will include government relations and liaison with corporate headquarters.

We are looking for an aggressive chartered accountant with an entrepreneurial outlook, and a broad business perspective. Experience in a 'third world' country, and knowledge of a second language would be a decided advantage. This position can lead to excellent promotional opportunities. Generous home leave, furnished accommodation, car and a pension scheme will be provided.

Please write in confidence, enclosing concise personal and career details, quoting reference MBS4/FT to J.D. Atchley.

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Arthur Young Management Services
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FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Friday February 4 1977

Tyne and Wear Metro

The ambitious plans for a new urban transport system on either side of the Tyne have been beset with difficulties. But it has escaped the public expenditure cuts and the Metro is planned to enter service in 1979.

Project stays on course

By Colin Jones

WORK ON TYNESIDE'S new Supertram Metro is now being pushed ahead with all possible speed. Yet only a few months ago it seemed all too likely that this ambitious project — probably the biggest new public transport enterprise to have been undertaken in the provinces in this century — would be halted in its tracks.

British Rail had abruptly repudiated an agreement providing for the Metro's joint operation and were lobbying hard for the project to be placed under its sole control. Even more ominously, there came from Whitehall a call for a full financial and economic appraisal in the light of the latest increase in the project's construction costs and the squeeze on public spending. Finally, on Tyneside itself, the local railwaymen were once again blocking the Metro's construction, denying the tunnelling contractors access to an important BR site on the banks of the Tyne.

Yet somehow the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport

Authority has managed to clear two of these hurdles and find a way around the third. The last may still be quietly rocking away under the gaze of a specially-convened TUC working party; but at least the blacking has been called off and no penalty points have been incurred — yet. With luck, the way could now be clear for the first Supertram to begin running sometime in 1979, thus ushering in a rail transport concept which will be entirely new to Britain.

The survival of this project thus far, when so many other brave schemes for refurbishing the face of Britain's urban transport systems — like London's Fleet Line extension and Manchester's Pico-Vic project — have disappeared off the edge of the table, probably owes as much to the stamina and enthusiasm of its progenitors as to the ingenuity of their design — and, in truth, to the fact that they had brought their project so far when the going became so much rougher about a year ago.

Commuter

Basically, the Tyneside Supertram will be a lightweight rapid transit system combining the speed, reliability, and cleanliness of an urban electric-railway with the simplicity of operation and frequency of service of a town bus. It will not be overburdened with staff: the trams, which can be coupled up in rush hour, will be operated by one man and the stations will be unstaffed. It does not pretend to strike out into new technology: all the main engineering and operational principles have



A prototype tram designed for the new Metro.

been tried out and proven on the Continent. Nor has it involved creating a fully-fledged rapid transit system from scratch.

The Metro will take over two sections of loss-making BR commuter lines stretching for some 26 route miles on either side of the Tyne; convert them to lightweight rapid transit operation; link them up by means of eight miles of new construction, partly in tunnel, so as to free the system of BR's Inter-city and freight activities; and then, finally, mesh the new complex in with a completely remodelled urban and suburban bus network so as to create a single road and rail rapid transit system extending across Tyneside.

The project was conceived back in the late 1960s when the world was bustling with plans for new rapid transit construction and bright ideas for even

more wondrous new rapid transit technology. Tyneside's Passenger Transport Authority had found, upon its formation in January 1969, that it was to be lumbered with the financial responsibility for the local rail commuter services which were then costing an awesome £700,000 annual subsidy to keep going.

Shortly afterwards, the Tyneside strategic land use and transportation study came out with a proposal for turning these lines into a rapid transit operation and linking them up with new tram-size tunnels under central Newcastle. Consultants reported that the rapid transit scheme would offer a better return than any of six possible alternatives — including retaining the local rail and bus services as they were, and converting the railway right-of-way to a specialised busway. By 1972, the project had received

the blessing of the Conservative Government in London and, even more usefully, the offer of a 75 per cent. infrastructure grant and an initial research grant.

But, if the local PTA thought they were home, they were soon undeceived. British Rail had never relished the idea of a rival rail operator and a remarkable display of barely-disguised hostility became manifest from some BR quarters. The PTA's invitation to British Rail to run the Metro on its behalf was spurned; the idea of a joint operating company, to which BR had reluctantly agreed, was repudiated when British Rail decided that it wanted sole operating control after all.

To avoid being held to ransom, the PTA has bought a site for its own 1½ mile test track and took delivery by road of the first two prototype trains from Metropolitan Cam-

bridge. By opposing the Supertram project so bitterly and so fiercely, British Rail has hardly done itself a service. For years its critics have been saying that it ought to be able to run stopping services — both in town and country — much more simply and cheaply (and just as safely) than its rule book and manning scales currently permit. For years non-railwaymen have been saying that British Rail ought to be able to cut costs and improve profitability without reducing the basic technical and operating standards of a properly run railway system.

Here were a group of non-railwaymen proposing to do just that, simply by borrowing ideas that were already well known on the Continent. Yet what was British Rail's response? Apparently, to try to stifle the venture at its birth.

drawn from the war, but the same cannot yet be said about the railway unions — or, rather, their local members. The PTA has guaranteed jobs on the Metro to all railwaymen likely to be affected and offered re-training where necessary. It has said that it will accept representation by the rail unions as well as the bus unions, and that it will pay Supertram drivers at least the equivalent going BR rate. But it remains to be seen whether, when the day comes, the PTA will be able to negotiate the manning scales and the shift system that it has been envisaging.

This is not the only question mark which still hovers over the project. It may seem churlish to raise doubts about so imaginative and well-conceived attempt to meet Tyneside's transport problems — and one, too, which could become (indeed, may have already become) a show window for Britain's export of transport equipment.

Climate

Yet the climate has undoubtedly become much chillier. The optimism of the 1960s, when city after city — abroad if not in this country — began pouring money into new or bigger urban rail networks has been replaced by a much more questioning mood.

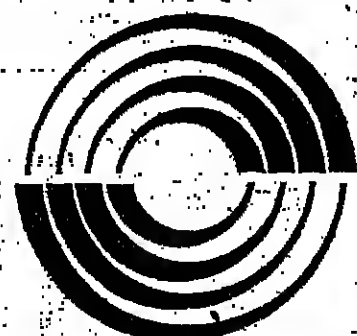
The Tyne and Wear PTA does not share these doubts. It agreed with Mr. William Rodgers, the Transport Minister, at the end of last year that it would carry the full financial burden of any cost over-run beyond a ceiling of £161m. at November 1975 prices together with any operating loss in excess of £5m. a

year on the bus and rail network combined.

Yet urban public transport systems throughout the industrialised world are becoming progressively more expensive to operate and support. The level of revenue support is increasing almost exponentially as patronage declines in the face of cost increases and the resumed growth in car ownership, even on systems which have stripped their manning standards to the basic minimum.

Tyneside is a medium-density conurbation spread out on either side of the river and car ownership, as yet, is relatively low. The Metro is seen (like the Fleet Line extension through London's dockland) as a lynchpin in the conurbation's regeneration, as a prime instrument for stemming the inner areas' loss of population and jobs. But if industry is ever to be induced back to these inner areas it is not only better personal mobility that is needed — and better housing, better amenity, a better quality of life all round — but better roads for moving freight and more space at less cost for well-laid out plants.

Still, it is right that, in a period of increasing uniformity in the provision of most of our public services, at least one area has seized and managed to retain the opportunity to experiment. Had the Tyne and Wear PTA succumbed last year to the tradition of public economy and the traditions of railwaymen, we would probably have never had a chance of seeing in practice what the Supertram concept might have to offer the British city.



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IN RAIL INVESTMENT and development terms, progress in building the Tyne and Wear Metro has been astonishingly rapid. The idea was only conceived in 1970 and by 1973 it had been fully planned and incorporated into the heart of an integral transport plan for the area. In November of the same year, Parliamentary approval for the scheme was granted.

Even at that point, the passenger transport authority was forcing the pace. A decision was taken to set aside money for preliminary engineering works even before the required Parliamentary Statute was enacted.

There is no doubt that it is this quality of commitment and determination to see the project through, in spite of risks, which has prevented the Metro from joining the well-stocked municipal files of adventurous developments researched but regarded as too costly to implement.

Quite why Metro has been able to advance from notion to plan to reality so quickly is hard to determine. Certainly the reason has nothing to do with luck: the construction work has been hit by two considerable

waves of industrial relations unrest, apart from the morale-sapping period of the Department of Transport re-assessment.

It is significant that throughout this period, the central team which is taking Metro from drawing board to final operation has stuck together. There has been only one departure, that of Mr. Tony Ridley, former director-general of the P.T.E. and now in charge of the Hong Kong rapid transit project.

It is a team of enthusiasts and, by British Rail standards, a team of amateurs—not one of the management team is a former British Rail man. There are those who feel that this lack of personal relationships with the state railway corporation was behind the early distrust between the two sides, a distrust which for two years threatened to scramble the project independently of the aggression later shown by the rail unions. Even now there are difficulties in the links with BR on such counts as track maintenance, which Tyne and Wear wants BR to do on a contract basis because the capital investment for independent track maintenance is prohibitively

high. British Rail is showing itself an unwilling partner in this as it did earlier over the more basic question of when should run the system.

But throughout the various stages of critical negotiations with British Rail, whose co-operation was vital to that it owned the land needed for most of the Metro track, work on the multitude of sites scattered around Tyneside continued, as indeed it continued during the Government reassessment.

Blacking

That was not the case when the P.T.E. ran into industrial relations problems. Blacking by the rail unions, which only ended in December with a pledge from ASLEP, the drivers' union, impeded work on a number of sites in central Newcastle and, most critically, prevented the start of tunnelling on the south bank of the Tyne outside Gateshead. This stretch of tunnel will be through rock, unlike the work beneath central Newcastle, where boulder clay predominates, and the race to complete in time for the 1979 opening date is one of the biggest tasks remaining on the construction side. This contract is in the hands of a Thyssen-Taylor Woodrow consortium.

Without exception, in taking a new line through the inner-city community of Byker, for example, planners were able to take over the route of an abandoned motorway project, which would, not typically of such urban motorway layouts, have neatly cut off residential Byker from commercial Byker, with its shops and other amenities.

It would have been simple to build a straightforward open rail track, fenced off to the required safety standards, but the authority decided that a part of its plan to regenerate the community should be an avoided. Consequently, an avoided method was used and when this work is completed there will be a belt of land for either commercial development or landscaping. Unfortunately in a way Byker has already turned its back on the whole business in anticipation of the motorway having hidden itself behind unweaving curved wall, which only broken up by the irregular squares of back-room windows.

Another feature of the construction is the building of the sixth bridge over the River Tyne. The bridge sites have escaped industrial relation troubles and completion is expected next year. The design is for two ribbed, bank-side pile in concrete, with an open span across the river. Major contractors here are Cleveland Bridge and Cementation Construction.

The greatest track distance of course, is over the existing British Rail loop. It had been expected that all the track would be replaced before Met opens, but cost-factors have prevented this. The change policy here was also assisted by the decision to fit standard covered rails when the P.T.E. covered that it would be economical in the long run to have lighter rails special manufactured.

Escaped

Relationships with British Rail are bound to be of continuing importance to Tyne and Wear long after a decision is reached on whether the BR line itself will be sold or simply rented to the Metro. It is in the interests of both sides, indeed of everyone who believes in public transport has an expanding future that the experiment should succeed.

Although costs have been cut where possible, it would not be true to say that the cheapest alternative has been adopted.

Ian Hargreave

Design features are appealing

ONE OF British industry's favourite clichés is that we are good at inventing things and bad at subsequent exploitation of our inventions. Tyne and Wear Metro is an example of precisely the opposite: it is an amalgam of all that looks best about lightweight rapid transit systems in other European countries. The final amalgam is unique, but the components are largely foreign or British-made under foreign licence.

There just wasn't time for anything new-fangled. We need a system which will be reliable as soon as it comes into use," says Mr. David Thornton, who is in charge of the Metro test centre.

This philosophy has certainly paid off in respect of the Metro-trams themselves, which have been under scrutiny in prototype form at the centre since July 1973. Metro-Cammell of Birmingham was asked to build two prototypes so that a variety of components could be tested under similar conditions, but in fact there was little variation between the two vehicles and changes for the production stage have been minimal.

The gradient on the test track is stiffer than anything the trams will have to deal with in normal service and the prototypes have come through tests without any significant difficulties emerging. Metro-Cammell is now working on 95 production vehicles—a contract worth £2m.

Each car is over 8m long, consisting of two separate saloons connected by an articulated vestibule. There are seats for 84 and standing room for a further 188—although these Bakerloo Line peak capacities are not expected to be reached under normal service conditions.

Estimated tare weight of the car is 39 tonnes, each being formed of a lightweight integral construction, comprising a welded steel underframe and bodyside elements of fabricated steel frame panelled in aluminium. The vehicle can be driven from either end and is powered by a single overhead pantograph linked to a 1500 volts dc supply. There are three sets of bogies—two powered—with a single longitudinal traction motor. Electrical equipment is by GEC (traction) and the bogies by Dürrag of Germany.

The maximum speed is 80 kph with top acceleration of one metre per second. Sharp acceleration and manoeuvrability were important design features both in ensuring high operational performance and in allowing civil engineering costs to be kept to a minimum. The operational versatility of the tram is enhanced by automatic coupling: the trams can be operated in sets of three, if desired.

The braking system combines rheostatic and disc methods, with magnetic track brakes for emergency use. In suspension and wheel design, great attention has been paid to noise emission hence the choice of a resilient wheel and a dual suspension system of rubber chertan and rubber air bag types. Flywheel gears have also been selected, partly also on the grounds of quietness.

The overall external effect is of smart, square lines. Internally, the immediate impression is of airiness (headroom is unusually high) and of a higher degree of seating comfort than is typical on rapid transit vehicles in other European countries. Doors are power-operated on a push-button signal from the passenger.

to be made public, will be considerable.

Another all too obvious problem is vandalism. Those in charge of the Metro project attach great importance to its being a physically pleasant form of transport and un-manned stations could clearly become a wrecker's paradise. Again, considerable reliance is placed on radio messages from passing drivers and inspectors and there will be television cameras linked to control centre on all stations.

The P.T.E., though, has hedged its bets on the success of these preventive devices and has laid in a heavy spare stock of the vitreous enamel panels in which station buildings will be clad. Buildings will anyway be few and far between—the halts being in fact more like bus stops than railway stations.

The trams themselves will not be fully automatic in operation in the London Victoria Line sense. Again, a simpler system has been preferred on the grounds of reliability and cost. The driver will control the speeds of his vehicle and will have a dial link with control to cover operation of points and track clearance. The latter point is important, because in some of its more remote stretches the Metro will rely on single-tracking with passing loops.

Suspensions

Certainly on the basis of its test-track record and on the spot judgment of a visitor, the car looks right. More open to doubt is the far more complex problem of how the system will actually be operated.

It is not just that a rail system without station staff and with universal one-man operation is bound to attract the suspicions of the transport unions; there are considerable technical problems too. That said, there can be no doubt that an economical staffing level—the latest estimate is about 550—down from 7001 is the only way the system can have a viable financial future.

At the heart of Metro will be the South Gosforth control centre, a building which will also contain staff canteen facilities, a wages bureau and which will act as a change-over point for drivers.

Inside the control room, a tiny staff will have a series of screens, able to call-up immediate information about activities on any station. When a ticket vending machine breaks

down, for example, the control centre will receive a signal and a message will be duly radioed to the Metro's own maintenance engineers. There will also be radio links with all drivers and with the team of roving ticket inspectors, who will have the difficult job of controlling fares evasion on which there will be no other checks.

The passenger transport executive knows it is taking a risk here and some would like powers of instant fines against anyone caught travelling without a ticket. This, however, is highly questionable in legal terms, even though the control system will be able to check legitimate reasons for failure to buy a ticket, such as breakdown of vending machines. Another alternative being considered in an attempt to avoid legal problems is a simple on-train ticket surcharge—but fare evaders still have to be apprehended. The county council has no plan for any form of transport police, so the burden on the inspectorate, whose number are unlikely

to be made public, will be considerable.

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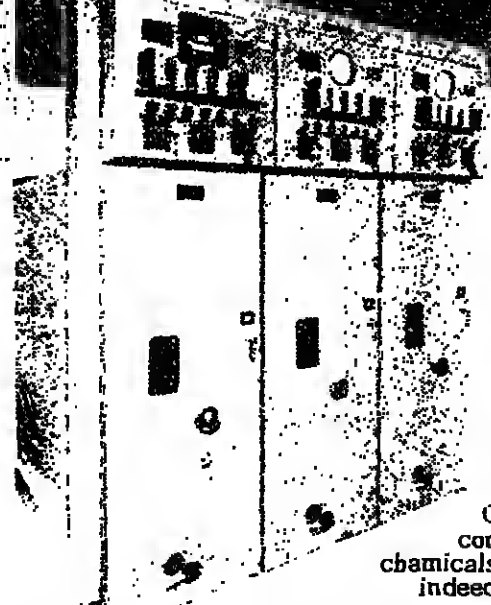
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When Metro does come in to service, it is hoped fairly early in 1979, the future of the test centre and its two miles of track is uncertain. By then it will have proved the equipment and trained the staff and Tyne and Wear may well have in abundance it.

Even so, to judge by the clamour of foreign interest in its activities so far, it may still have a future. Already there are weeks when the centre is hired out to interested parties, such as the builders of the Hong Kong rapid transit system, as a testing unit and the British rail industry would be reluctant to see such a showcase closed. What the industry really hopes, of course, is that by 1979 the shadows of economic gloom will have lifted from the faces of those who control the Department of Transport purse-strings and that Britain will by then be planning its second lightweight rapid transit Metro.

I. H.

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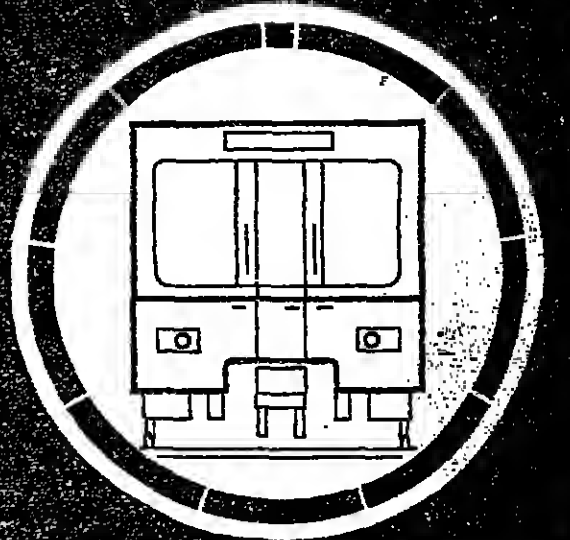


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مكتبة الاميل

TYNE AND WEAR METRO III

Slow progress on labour disputes

THE LIFTING of the train drivers' blacking campaign against Tyne and Wear Metro late last year helped to ensure continued Government support for the project when its future had reached a critical stage. Only the immediate crisis is over, however, and the difficult issue of who will drive the new transport system's trams remains unresolved.

Any system of Metro's hybrid nature—trams will run on a combination of existing British Rail track and newly constructed lines—was virtually guaranteed to provoke the bitter demarcation dispute which has now reached the point of railwaymen refusing to talk of Metro "trams," insisting instead that they be called "trains."

The blacking, which has been unofficial throughout, had its origins in two separate but related issues. One was the still unresolved question of whose members should drive the trams and the other the issue of how the new Metro should be owned and operated.

On the latter issue all three rail unions—the National Union of Railwaymen, Transport Salaried Staffs Association and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen—were lined up alongside the British Railways Board in support of the argument that Metro should become part of the British Rail network.

The unions feared for the possible impact on existing agreements and procedures if part of the national railway network, as they see it, fell into the hands of a different authority. However, Tyne and Wear county councillors and passenger transport executive officials were equally determined that Metro should not become a mere appendix to the British Rail system, and argued strongly in favour of running it themselves. More than 200,000 people, with a population considerably smaller than a million—including Tyne and Wear leaders as well as Tynesiders, indeed, the last few years have witnessed something of a world boom in the construction of urban rapid transit systems. Wherever one looks—in the car-polluted, dominated countries of North America, in the increasingly crowded, centrally planned economies of Eastern Europe, or in the economically weak nations of Asia, Latin America and Africa—one can find vast sums of money being poured into the creation or extension of a new urban rapid transit network. Rapid transit is a relatively modern term. It is the generic term for any guided transport system which carries passengers within an urban area and which operates over its own exclusive right of way from which other forms of transport are excluded. It thus embraces not only metro, subway, underground, U-bahn, and monorail services but also tramways and street cars operating over their own segregated track as well as S-bahn and many other types of suburban commuter rail services.

Sixty years ago just ten of the world's cities boasted a rapid transit system—six in Western Europe and four in the U.S. By 1939, the number had crept up to 17—nine in Western Europe, four in the U.S., two in Asia (Tokyo and Osaka), one in Eastern Europe (Moscow), and one in Latin America (Buenos Aires). By the end of the 1950s the total had grown to 25; and by the end of the 1960s it had reached 36. In the last eight years, however, the number has more than doubled. At the last count, no fewer than 79 cities

had opened up a rapid transit system or were in process of constructing one, and a further 50 or 60 were engaged in preliminary studies.

The reasons for the boom are not hard to find. Throughout history people have been congregating in cities in search of opportunities for better jobs, better schooling for their children and a better social life for themselves. The trend may seem to have gone the other way recently in some of the older industrial areas of Western Europe and North America: in these centres the better life is now thought to lie further out. But elsewhere in the world the move to the city has become a veritable flood. Indeed, one of the major phenomena of the last thirty years has been the rapidly increasing urbanisation of the world's population.

Yet cities will only succeed if they are able to offer their inhabitants a reasonable chance of personal mobility at a reasonable cost: otherwise, the whole point of congregating in a city has been lost. Attempts to solve the passenger transport problems of the major city by the use of the private car alone have failed even in places where land is cheap, resources are plentiful, regard for the environment is minimal, and the relative immobility of the carless—the old, the young, the disabled, and the poor—is regarded as socially acceptable.

only problem which Tyne and Wear PTE officials will have to resolve before the Metro trams begin running in two or three years' time. An original manpower estimate of 700 when Metro is fully operational was recently reduced to 580, with the proposed introduction of features like fully automatic fare collection, and it remains to be seen whether this can be negotiated in detail. A wide-ranging review of the economics of Metro conducted by the Department of Transport last year questioned whether the envisaged manning levels could be achieved in practical terms.

Understandable concern about unemployment in an area where new jobs are scarce has helped produce extreme stances from the protagonists in the demarcation battle. The TGWU men originally demanded that as Metro was to become part of an integrated passenger transport system based primarily on buses they should drive all of the new trams—and received a predictably extreme response from ASLEF members. A compromise has still to be found and the path to it is not an easy one.

However, if the issue is resolved it will be because of the widespread enthusiasm for Metro on Tyneside—all of the unions, including the ASLEF men when they were blacking the project, have stressed their belief in the scheme. Tyne and Wear leaders have shown considerable political skill in preventing the entire project from becoming a victim of public spending cuts, and will work with the same intensity to solve the outstanding labour problem.

And, while the intervention of the TUC is valuable in searching for a peace formula, it is on Tyneside that the final agreement must be reached, for the men directly concerned have already shown that they will not accept solutions which do not take their view of the situation fully into account.

Joining the world boom

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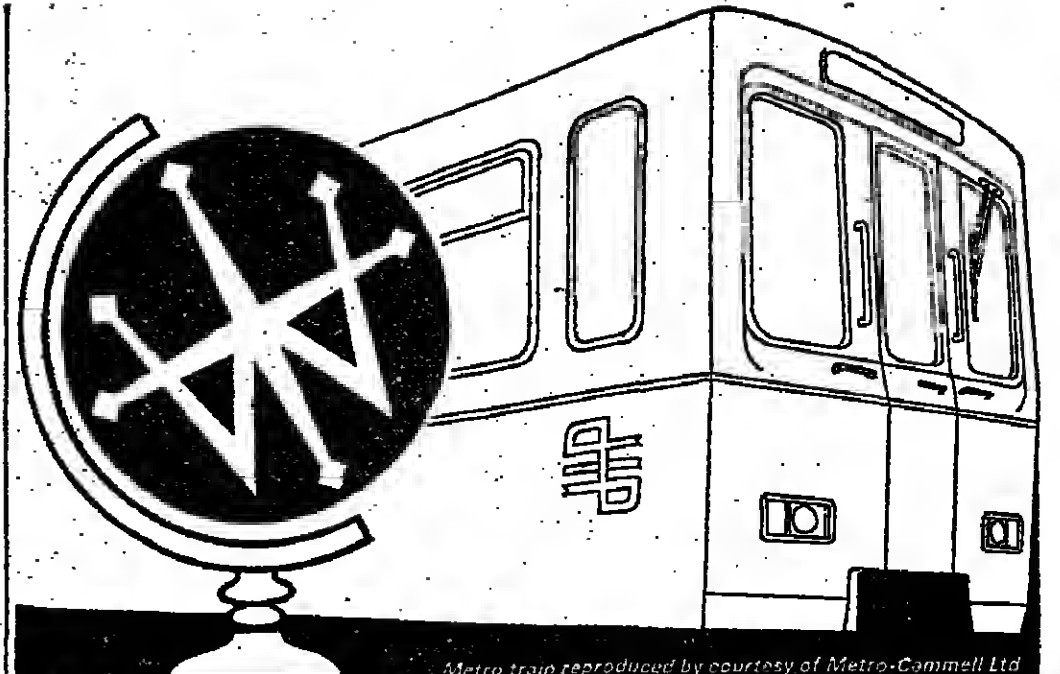
Innovations

Attempts to develop new or more sophisticated systems of urban passenger transport—like the cab-track, the minitram, and the moving pavement—have also so far proved unavailing. Many possible technological innovations have been under study both here and abroad but there are yet few signs of a breakthrough which could provide a serious economic competitor to the bus, the tram, the train, and the car. So, as cities expand and existing bus networks become overloaded or their efficiency becomes eroded by street congestion, the focus turns to the possibility of constructing a segregated rapid transit system.

Yet the rapid transit construction boom is a peculiar one in one particular sense. Few of the systems in operation in the world to-day are run as a commercial venture in the strict sense of that term. The type of system in operation can vary widely from one place to another. So, too, will the organisational and management structure and its relationship with the municipal, regional or national authority. But most of them have in common the fact that they are not expected to make a commercial profit; most are in receipt of capital and/or operating subsidies in one form or another. The rapid transit boom, in fact, has been largely founded on the strange economics of social cost/benefit.

Throughout the urban world the private car has become the preferred form of personal

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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AT THE END of last year when the future of the Tyne and Wear Metro hung in the balance and even some of its most dedicated protagonists began to lose heart, members of the county council and its passenger transport executive were gratified to receive messages of support from many other local authorities.

Even Greater Manchester, whose own Piccadilly-Victoria project now looks lost for ever, sent a morale-boosting note and joined the lobby of Government, which was threatening to cut off its grant support for the project.

Such municipal brotherly love is not common. It is partly explained by a whiff of self-interest in that if Tyne and Wear Metro succeeds, others may follow. But self-interest does not adequately explain the very genuine desire of all manner of people, in local government and beyond, to see this funny little railway, with its continental touches, score a lasting success. The deeper reason for concern was and remains, in effect, the question-mark over the whole future of urban public transport and its ability to support major new investment and innovative technology.

In forcing through a re-assessment of the validity of the project, the Department of Transport was, apparently, using the depressingly conventional statistics and projections about passenger levels which score the dreams of every public transport manager in Britain. At a time of inflation, fares must rise. Working on the

universally accepted fares elasticity factor of 0.3, it is assumed that the level of ridership sinks at a level corresponding to that of inflation, with the result that services are curtailed and the spiral prepares for the next twist.

Last year, the Department was telling Tyne and Wear that if it lost 2 to 3 per cent. of its passengers a year (a conservative national projection in the opinion of some) through natural wastage, the compound effects over six years might be a 28 per cent. loss. In other words, three years after Metro opened, there would be less than three-quarters the number of fare-payers and someone (now by agreement, the ratepayers) would be picking up the bill for massive revenue losses.

Possibility

What this argument leaves out, of course, is the possibility that the decline in public transport patronage can be halted by improving services. This is the gamble being taken by Tyne and Wear: that ridership will increase 21 per cent.

It is a gamble because the system is unique in this country. The philosophy, though, is not entirely untried on Tyneside, where a policy cycle over four years of large bus fare increases to generate investment for new buses followed by a two-year fares plateau has, councillors claim, succeeded in stabilising bus patronage. In fact last year, ridership increased by just over 1 per cent.

The policy of heavy spending on buses will continue this year, when the authority hopes to take delivery of about 200 new buses—equivalent to a third of its fleet. When Metro comes in, the fleet will be cut by about 100, but it should be in tip-top condition.

Even so, the success of the system, will depend on its 34 route miles of Metro, and the performance of its fleet of yellow and white, Metro-Cammell "super-trams."

The basic layout of the system, first considered in 1970, is ready-made, in the shape of the 26-mile British Rail loop line, whose diesel service loses money heavily and is supported to the tune of £2.8m. a year by the county council. This loop, which runs north of the Tyne connecting Newcastle with Tynemouth and Whitley Bay and south of the river on a South Shields branch, will be upgraded and supplemented by eight miles of new track in Newcastle, Gateshead and South Shields. Much of the new construction will be underground and the Tyne will be crossed at a new bridge.

On the redeveloped system, there will be 45 stations, against the 27 on the existing lines, and a major bus-metro interchange to the north and south of Newcastle. The systems' planners accept that a direct bus to metro feeder system, with closely synchronised timetables would have provided the simplest method of "integration," but it would have been cumbersome and too expensive to operate.

Fare and ticketing policies are not yet fully worked out, but it is unlikely that the authority will be able to afford the luxury of complete through ticketing on bus and Metro, simply because, changeover generates revenue and even on the most cheerful assumption about passenger numbers, the system will need every penny it can earn. Tyne and Wear expects to limit revenue support to £5m. a year (1975 prices), but others, including the Department of Transport, are less optimistic. Some kind of pass-card system, already in use within the area, will almost certainly continue, but again details have not yet been decided.

A certain compromise with the ideal has already been necessary in re-planning bus routes because the PTE controls only 40 per cent. of buses in the area, the rest coming under the aegis of the National Bus Company, NBC, quite reasonably and probably in the interests of many of its passengers, does not want to terminate all out of town services at Metro points and will continue to end many journeys in central Newcastle. Meanwhile, the PTE is to leave its local suburban services virtually unchanged and its circumferential routes only slightly altered, to concentrate on cutting out short-run city routes. In the long term, the PTE would like to form a joint operating company with NBC on Tyne and Wearside and talks are now in progress on this subject.

Support for public transport is a fundamental component of the Labour-controlled authority's political outlook, logical enough position which only one in ten of its population has access to a car. It must however, be a matter for doubt whether in the foreseeable future the actual Metro system can be extended.

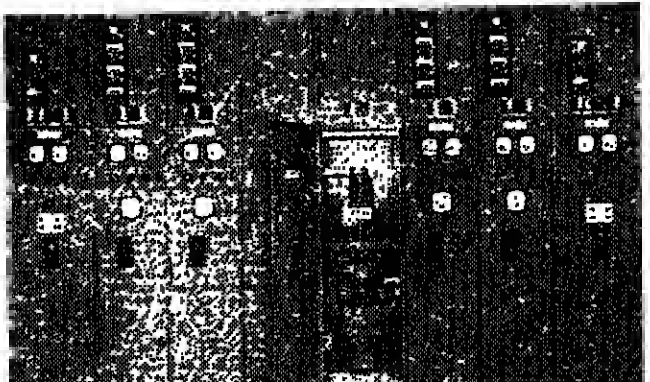
Plans for such an extension exist and they include straight extensions of the line south, Sunderland and, less ambitiously, into the western part of the city of Newcastle. Or possibly the PTE would like to explore the idea of running the Metro-tram, which is powered from an overhead electricity supply, along open streets, like old tams. The area is likely to be vigorous in objections to any such ideas as long as the Metro carries a "tram way" rather than a "bus" "tram" image, but plans point out that it is not more than 20 years since its last real tram left the streets of Tyneside.

In the end, though, this, if any other transport system, must justify itself in terms of its social and economic benefits. Some of these are obvious: movement for shoppers, schoolchildren, for example, fume-free transport.

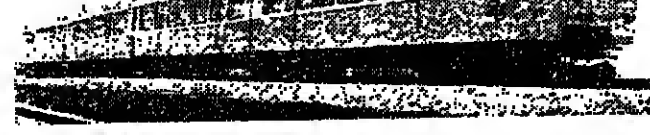
What the county council hopes for, though, is a contribution to the so often tractable difficulties of economic decline. For a start, believes Metro will contribute to its planned regeneration residential areas of the city and it can point to evidence that a number of companies have already been attracted to sites alongside Metro stations in anticipation of the wide catchment area it will open.

With Newcastle alone losing about 3,000 jobs a year, the seriousness of the problem needs no emphasis. The council feels that mobility combined with such factors as its own and the Government's factory-building programme will play a big part. The dedicated public transport enthusiast can take particular satisfaction that the Automobile Association has been early taker for a prime site for office premises, any case. It is estimated that over 50 per cent. of the existing jobs are sited within half a mile of Metro. So Tyneside, the Metro becomes an act of faith in its future.

Brush Vacuum Switchgear has been chosen for the Tyne and Wear Rapid Transit System



It's safe to say that the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive were insistent on getting the best equipment for their Rapid Transit System. Brush Vacuum Switchgear was among the high quality products chosen. Brush is a name to keep in mind when reliability is of first importance.



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World boom

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

transport. Once acquired, its use tends to be maximised and, which took place in the late 1960s (and which followed only a few years after the short-transport systems find their own peak revenue being eroded. In some places, the divergence between peak and off peak loading in the rapid transit network is still not great. In others, only the most promising routes have yet been constructed; while in other others parking controls and other traffic management measures have managed to staunch the loss of patronage. But, generally, public transport has tended to lose total revenue faster than it can disengage from its peak load costs.

As a result, real seat-mile costs tend to rise disproportionately faster than the perceived costs of private motoring. To that extent, the economics of a rapid transit system can be fundamentally unstable. In the extreme case, such as San Francisco's new BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) system, where both construction and operating costs turned out to be much higher and patronage much lower than predicted, seat mile costs have turned out to be considerably higher than both the bus and the car; and what custom BART has attracted has tended to come not from car users but from the bus network, thus debilitating the latter.

This is one reason why Britain's contribution to the present world rapid transit construction boom has been so minimal. Another, of course, has been the recent severe constraint upon public expenditure. A number of rapid transit projects were advanced and revived amid the wave of

enthusiasm for mass transit ridership. Tyneside's Metro and London's River Line are both seen as means to help regenerate declining inner urban areas. But one wonders whether the migration of jobs and people from older and larger cities—a movement which has been taking place for at least the last two decades—will be staunchly by improvements in public transport alone, whether in fact we are witnessing the beginning of the decline of the large metropolitan city.

For the present, certainly, while public spending remains restrained, the bus, which is less capital intensive and offers greater flexibility, is likely to be preferred to new rapid transit systems. There may be a boom in building and extending rapid transit systems abroad. But the auguries hardly suggest that the Tyneside Metro (which anyway is largely a conversion of existing infrastructure) is likely to be followed, at least yet awhile by a lot of other similar schemes in this country.

Network

Matters were not helped by the onset of record rates of inflation just when so many metropolitan authorities decided to embark upon "cheap fares" policies. Until the early 1970s, London Transport had managed on the whole to wash its face (even before its capital debt was written off in 1969), the London rail commuter network was in sight of doing so, and the urban bus industry had managed to retain a large measure of viability in face of a slowly declining market. Now urban public transport faces a much more unstable prospect, with several years of substantial real fares increases so as to restore a more realistic economic structure, the probability of a resumption in the long-term growth of car ownership, and the possibility of increasing difficulty in adjusting network costs because of the large, and rapidly growing, weight of concessionary travel within total

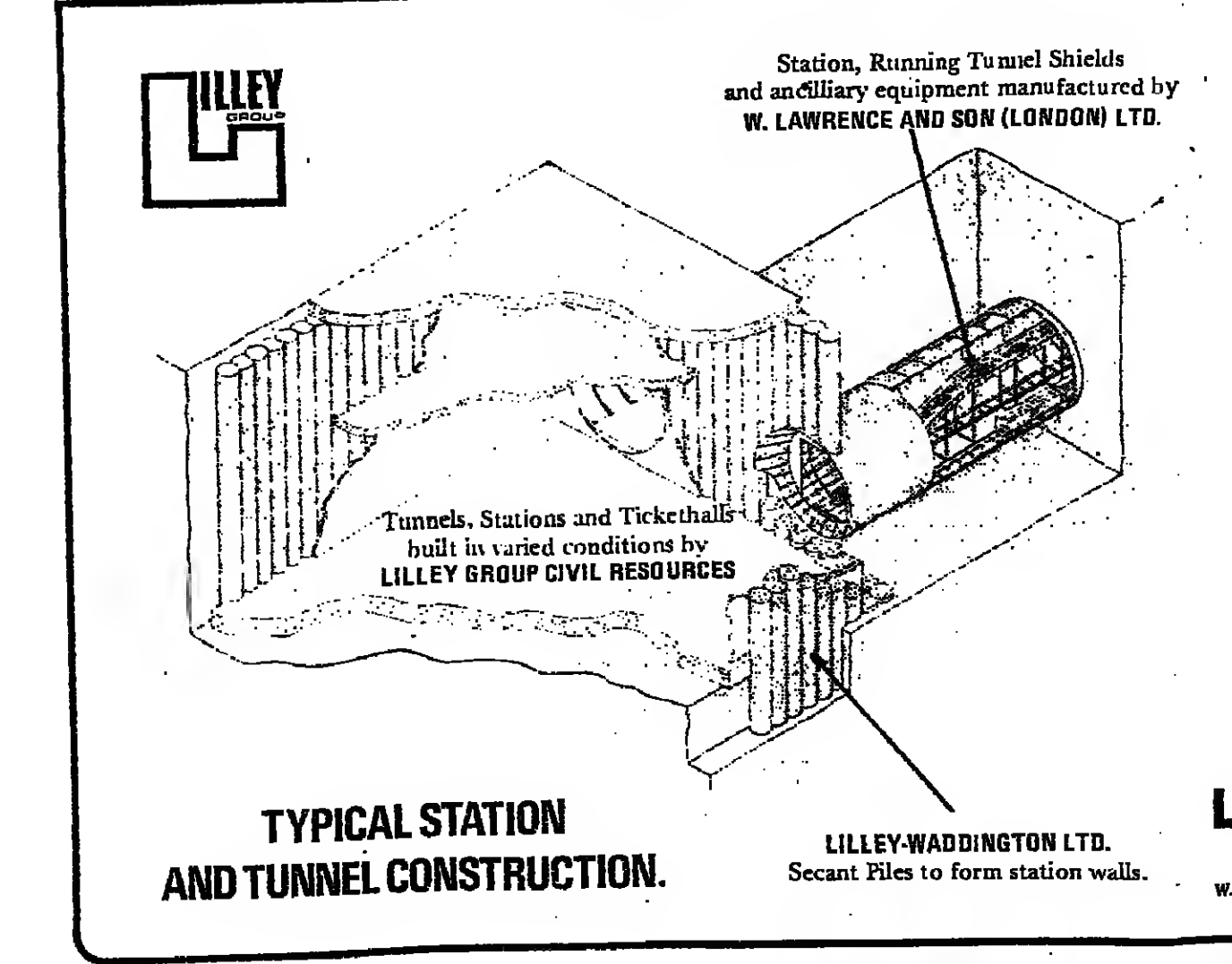
Charges

Those responsible for planning the Metro insist that they are not anti-road or anti-car as a matter of dogma. There are no plans to aggressively penalise those who insist on continuing to use their cars in the cities, although a £500,000 subsidy on Newcastle's car parks is to be gradually phased out and car-park charges are now reviewed each year, with an increasing tendency towards proportionately lower charges for short-stay motorists at the expense of the long-stay commuter.

It is true that 31 major highway schemes have been dropped in recent years, but Mr. Jim

Colin Jones Ian Hargreaves

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مكتبات الامم المتحدة

STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Turmoil in markets on surprise 1/4% cut in MLR
Prices erratic and index down 0.1 at 406.0 after 415.9

Account Dealing Dates

First Declared Last Account Dealing Dates
Jan. 17 Jan. 27 Jan. 28 Feb. 8
Jan. 31 Feb. 10 Feb. 11 Feb. 22
Feb. 14 Feb. 24 Feb. 25 Mar. 5

Short Gilts lead

Dominated by the question of interest rates, gilt-edged surged forward strongly on a fresh wide-spread demand before turning volatile on the unexpected change in Minimum Lending Rate yesterday.

Apart from Allied, 14 easier at 67p

Breweries closed with modest gains following a brisk trade. A.EMI ended a net 4 off at 238p, after 238p, while GEC were 3 after at 194p, after 200p.

Electrical leaders surrendered

Early gains which ranged to 5, Geonole Occidentale, closed 3 cheaper at 123p following a reasonable two-way business and Associated Fisheries ended a penny off at 47p despite the return to profitable trading.

Lamson Inds. jump

A cut of only a 1/4 per cent in the Minimum Lending Rate to 12 per cent, upset the miscellaneous industrial leaders which had shown early strength on hopes of a bigger decrease to-day.

City optimism for another imminent sharp fall in Minimum Lending Rate was rudely shattered yesterday by the Bank of England's early afternoon announcement of the suspension of normal procedure of peering the rate to Treasury Bills which accompanied the news that MLR was to be reduced this week by a mere 1/4 per cent.

Spurious demand on arbitrage

Spurious demand on arbitrage account took the investment currency premium up to 10 1/2 per cent, but when the interest faded rates drifted back and the day ended a net 1/4 higher at 10 1/2 per cent.

Ins. brokers good

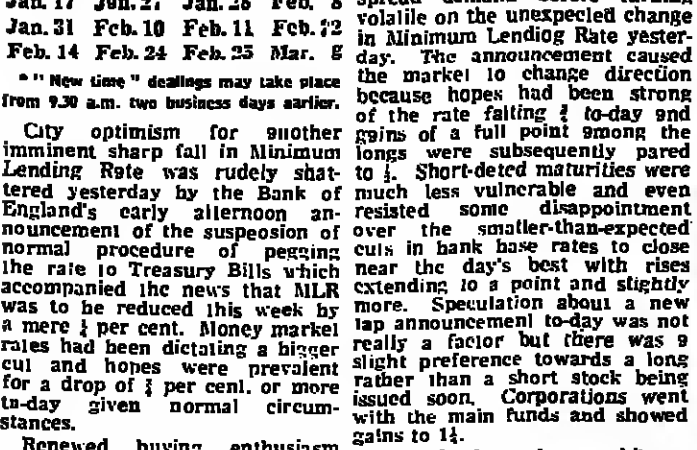
Insurance Brokers were a particularly firm market yesterday in belated response to the Press comment that C. E. Hales were outstanding at 460p, up 23, while further consideration of a subsidiary's 2.3m. sale of 3,200 acres of farmland helped Matthews Wrightson gain 10 to 206p, after 207p.

Profit-taking hits Oils

A reversal of the previous day's strength in Oils occurred when local holders decided to take profits and U.S. sources adopted a negative view. Shell bore the brunt of the domestic selling and reached 8 3/16p, after 8 1/4p, while British Petroleum gave up 16 at 225p.

On the proposed offer from 220p

On the proposed offer from 220p and Ultramar 4 to 138p. Geonole Occidentale, closed 3 cheaper at 123p following a reasonable two-way business and Associated Fisheries ended a penny off at 47p despite the return to profitable trading.



F.T.—ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

Table with columns: EQUITY GROUPS, Thursday, February 3, 1977, Index No., Day's Change, etc. Includes sub-sections like CAPITAL GOODS, BUILDING MATERIALS, etc.

FIXED INTEREST

Table with columns: Index No., Yield, etc. Includes items like Console 2 1/2% yield, 30-yr. Govt. Stocks, etc.

Section of Group Overseas Traders, Engineering (Heavy), Engineering (General), etc.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES table with columns: Index, Feb. 3, Feb. 2, etc.

HIGHS AND LOWS table with columns: Index, High, Low, etc.

BANK RETURN table with columns: Bank Name, Return, etc.

Australians up again
News that one of Australia's major trading unions had lifted its ban on exports caused uranium shares to move ahead in both overnight home markets and here.

Discount house book up-dated
Financial Times Reporter GILBERT BROTHERS Discount Company has brought up to date the information contained in its book 'The Bill on London'.

Profit-taking hits Oils
A reversal of the previous day's strength in Oils occurred when local holders decided to take profits and U.S. sources adopted a negative view.

ACTIVE STOCKS

Table with columns: Stock Name, Denomination, Closing, Change, etc.

OPTION DEALING DATES

Table with columns: First, Last, Deal, etc.

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1976/77

Table with columns: Stock Name, High, Low, etc.

RISES AND FALLS

Table with columns: Stock Name, Rise/Fall, etc.

MONEY MARKET

MLR set at 12%

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 12 per cent. The announcement by the authorities, but were still lower than the close on Wednesday. Discount Treasury bills, settlement of official bills of edge-edged stock, and repayment of previous advances. Discount houses paid around 12 1/2 per cent for secured call loans in the early part and closing balances were taken at 11-12 1/2 per cent, although some houses may have been forced to pay 12 1/2 per cent in places.

CORAL INDEX

Table with columns: Index Name, Value, etc.

INSURANCE BASE RATES

Table with columns: Insurance Type, Rate, etc.

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

Table listing various unit trusts and funds, including Abbey Unit Tr. Mgrs. Ltd., Allied Hambro Group, and many others, with columns for fund names and numerical values.

INSURANCE, PROPERTY, BONDS

Table listing insurance, property, and bond companies and their products, including Abbey Life Assurance Co. Ltd., Charitas Japhet Life Assn. Co. Ltd., and many others.

Table titled 'FOOD PRICE MOVEMENTS' showing price changes for various food items like Bacon, Butter, Eggs, etc., with columns for item names and price movements.

Table titled 'CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS RATES' showing advertising rates for different types of ads, including Industrial & Business Premises, Residential Property, etc.

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS FUNDS

Table listing offshore and overseas funds, including Abn-Amro Securities (C.I.) Limited, Charterhouse Japhet, and many others, with columns for fund names and numerical values.

CASTLEFIELD (KLANG) RUBBER ESTATE MR. ADDINSELL'S STATEMENT
70th Annual General Meeting of Castlefield (Klang) Rubber Estate Limited was held on 31st January 1977.

NOTES
Prices do not include a premium, except where indicated. Values are shown in local currency unless otherwise stated.

HEALEY & BAKER SURVEYORS VALUERS AND AUCTIONEERS OF REAL ESTATE

FT SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

BRITISH FUNDS

Table of British Funds with columns for Name, Price, and % Change. Includes sections for Shares (lives up to five years) and Over Fifteen Years.

INTERNATIONAL BANK

Table of International Bank shares with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

COMMONWEALTH & AFRICAN LOANS

Table of Commonwealth & African Loans with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

LOANS (Miscel)

Table of various Loans with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

FOREIGN BONDS & RAIS

Table of Foreign Bonds & Rais with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

CANADIANS

Table of Canadian shares with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

BANKS AND HIRE PURCHASE

Table of Banks and Hire Purchase companies with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS

Table of Beers, Wines and Spirits with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

BUILDING INDUSTRY, TIMBER AND ROADS

Table of Building Industry, Timber and Roads with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

BUILDING INDUSTRY—Continued

Continuation of Building Industry table with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table of Chemicals and Plastics with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

CINEMAS, THEATRES AND TV

Table of Cinemas, Theatres and TV with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

DRAPERY AND STORES

Table of Drapery and Stores with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

DRAPERY AND STORES—Continued

Continuation of Drapery and Stores table with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

ELECTRICAL AND RADIO

Table of Electrical and Radio with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

ENGINEERING, MACHINE TOOLS

Table of Engineering and Machine Tools with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

ENGINEERING—Continued

Continuation of Engineering table with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

Table of Food, Groceries, Etc. with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table of Hotels and Caterers with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel)

Table of Industrial (Miscellaneous) with columns for Name, Price, and % Change.

Conversion factor 6.758 (0.7518)

Handwritten note in Arabic script: مكاتبات

INDUSTRIALS - Continued

Table of industrial stocks including companies like British Leyland, Ford, and various engineering firms. Columns include stock price, price change, and volume.

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT TRADES

Table of motor and aircraft trade stocks including companies like British Leyland, Ford, and various engineering firms.

PROPERTY - Continued

Table of property stocks including companies like British Leyland, Ford, and various engineering firms.

TRUSTS - Continued

Table of trust stocks including companies like British Leyland, Ford, and various engineering firms.

TRUSTS - Continued

Table of trust stocks including companies like British Leyland, Ford, and various engineering firms.

NOMURA The Nomura Securities Co., Ltd. advertisement with logo and contact information for London and New York offices.

MINES - Continued

Table of mine stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

SHIPBUILDERS, REPAIRERS

Table of shipbuilding and repair stocks including companies like British Leyland, Ford, and various engineering firms.

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table of shoe and leather stocks including companies like British Leyland, Ford, and various engineering firms.

SOUTH AFRICANS

Table of South African stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table of overseas trader stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

RUBBERS AND SISALS

Table of rubber and sisal stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

INSURANCE

Table of insurance stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

Table of newspaper and publisher stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

Table of paper, printing, and advertising stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

PROPERTY

Table of property stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

TEXTILES

Table of textile stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

TOBACCO

Table of tobacco stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

TEAS

Table of tea stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND

Table of trust, finance, and land stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

TEAS

Table of tea stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND

Table of trust, finance, and land stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

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Table of trust, finance, and land stocks including companies like Anglo-American, Anglo-African, and various mining operations.

NOTES

Notes section containing financial commentary and analysis regarding market trends and company performance.

REGIONAL MARKETS

Table of regional market data including stock prices and indices for various international markets.

OPTIONS

Table of options data including call rates and other financial instruments.

